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HORIYOSHI III
AN EXCLUSIVE MEETING WITH THE MASTER OF JAPANESE TATTOOING

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LUKE ATKINSON
THE GENTLEMAN FROM STUTTGART TELLS HIS STORY

STEVE SOTO
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THE GENIUS OF THE GREAT FILIP LEU AND THE TEAM OF HIS NEW STUDIO

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SPIDER MURPHY'S TATTOO SHOP
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GUIN ZEKRA
BAROQUE INSPIRE DARK STYLE

TONY CIAVARRO
IRONY AND PERFECTION IN NEW SCHOOL DETAILS

TRADITIONAL

MOTORS

WOMEN

DRAGONS

ANIMALS

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WITH CALENDAR 2012

PORTRAITS

ORIENTAL

LETTERING

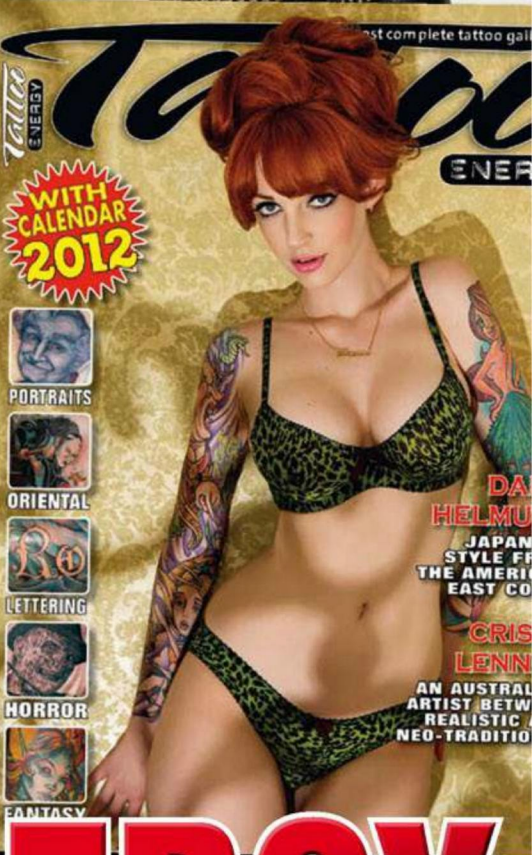
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CRIS LENN
AN AUSTRALIAN ARTIST BETWEEN REALISTIC AND NEO-TRADITIONAL

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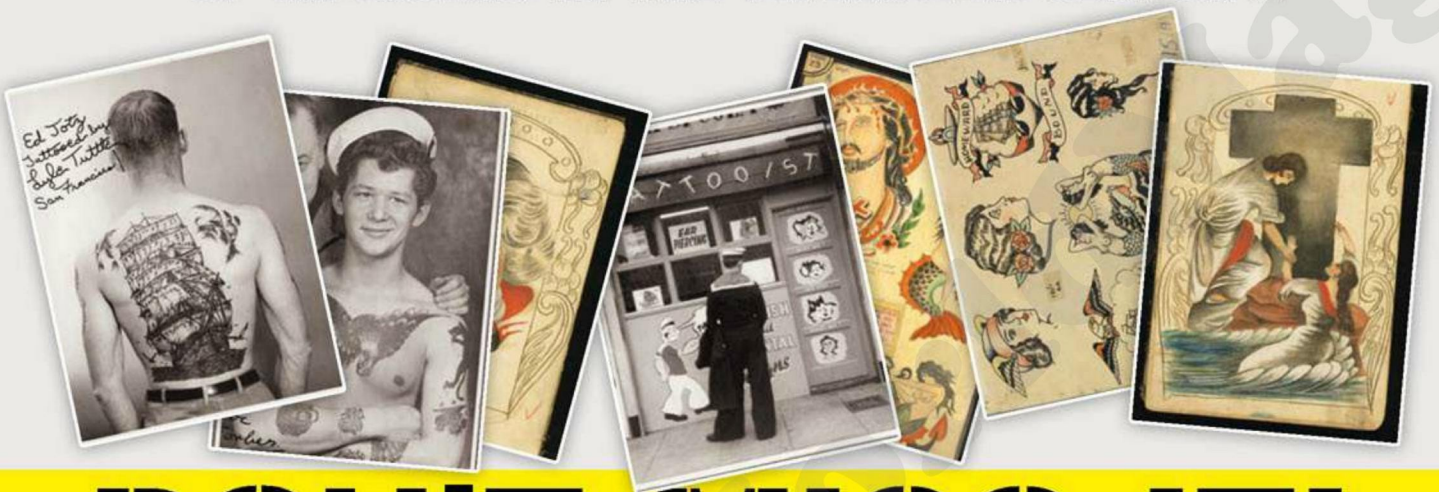
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Mediafriends srl
Viale Papiniano, 49
20123 Milano - Italy
www.tattoolife.com

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Euroservice Traductions (Mi)

Colour reproduction
Esseci (Mi)

Printing
Tiber S.p.A
Via Della Volta, 179
Brescia, Italy
tel. +39 030 3543439

Distribution:
UK
Comag
West Drayton, Middlesex

Australia
Network Services
66-68 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Canada
Disticor Magazine Distribution Services
Ajax, Ontario, Canada

France
MLP
55, Bd de la Noirée
38291 St. Quentin Fallavier, Cedex

Germany
DPV
Nordendstraße 2
D-64546 Mörfelden-Walldorf

Italy
S.O.D.I.P. Spa
Via Bettola 18, 20092
Cinisello Balsamo (Mi)

España
SGEL
Avenida Valdelaparra, 29
28108 Alcobendas (Madrid)

South America
Hispanmedia
Barcelona, Spain

USA
Edition published by Five Star Media Inc.
PO BOX 1071, Pacifica, CA 94044
USA distribution
CMG Circulation Services, Princeton, NJ

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The World at a Glance

These days most information is brought to us through images, and their impact and efficiency is of paramount importance for many reasons, first and foremost for their immediacy. Just contemplate the news that has reached us lately, from every far-reaching corner of the world, describing events that have changed the course of history. The images are real documents that bear witness to the present, hint at the future and remind us of the past. And tattooing is a special image which encapsulates all this energy, enhanced by anecdotes, traditions and cultural differences, because people are its canvas. We could say that every edition of this magazine is a short

photographic story of many cross-sections of life, which lead us back and forth in time to discover unknown worlds, whose significance depends upon individual preferences or personal experiences. With the gallery in this edition you can learn about the grace of **oriental style**, with all its best-loved iconography; the strange fascination of **masks** which can be mystic, disturbing or mysterious, depending on their origin; evocative images inspired by **music** – from famous rock'n'roll icons (spanning Elvis to Pink) to the sinuous shapes of musical instruments – and finally an array of subjects – above all expressions, faces and fleeting glances – all done in **realistic style**.

EDITORIAL



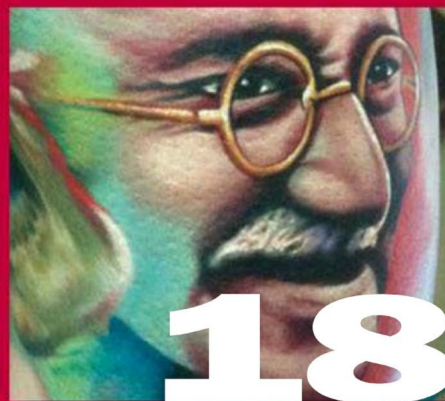
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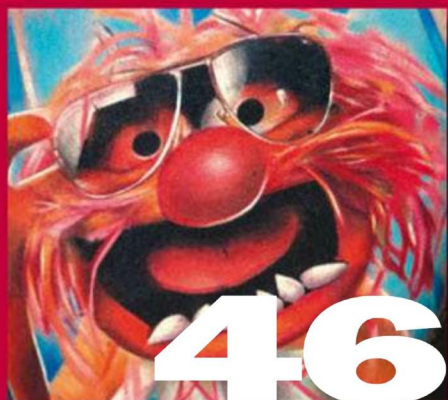
worldmags.net

There are many examples of **lettering** which although surprising in their simplicity, convey the most intimate experiences of individuals. You have all these and many other stories to browse through, like those of **Kostas** and **Kyle Cotterman** for example, which are told through their creations and many sincere words. Kostas comes from the wonderful country of Greece and has reinterpreted oriental by observing the great masters of this style, revealing a very special and creative talent. Kyle Cotterman, on the other hand, is a young American who gives his all to realistic, and he tells us how and why he got involved in tattooing, together with his plans for the

future. Finally, there are the usual features: **Music**, with **Biohazard** the historical nu-metal band of the '90s; there is **Portraits** which investigates one of the most popular fictional characters of all time, namely **Batman**; and finally **Symbology**, which this time focuses on the secrets surrounding the **bulldog**, a breed with a rich history of which there is lots to learn. Once again we have endeavoured to select unusual facts and above all a large quantity of wonderful images, which will guide you as you meet new places, people and discover new themes. Fall in love with different worlds, at a single glance.



Photo: Isaac Madera
www.IsaacMadera.com
Model: Jessica De



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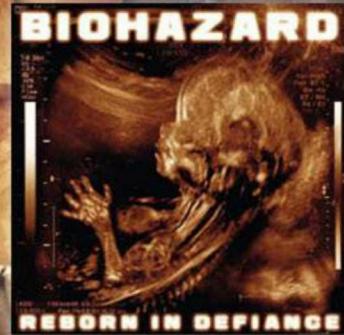
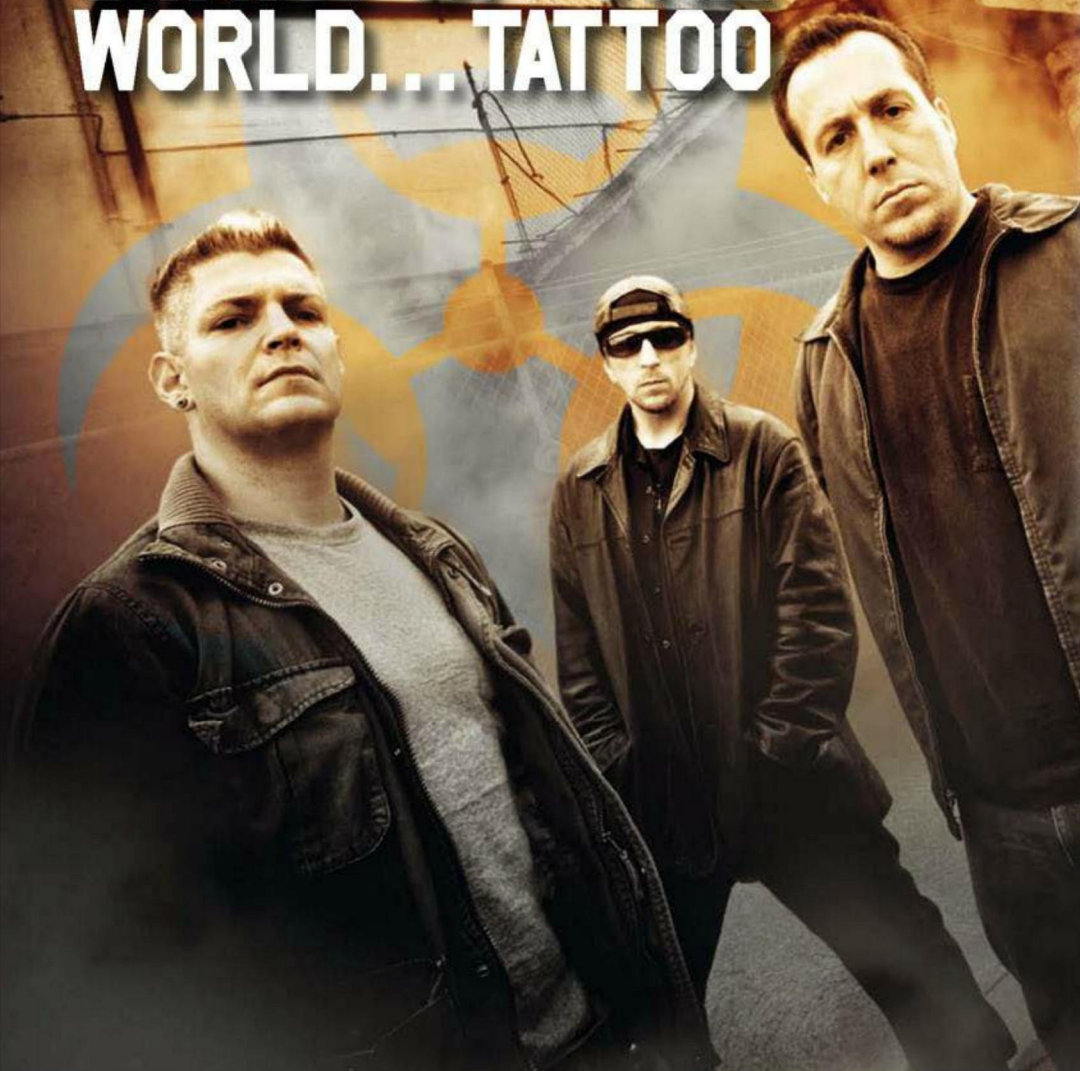
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BIOHAZARD

STATE OF THE WORLD...TATTOO



LINE-UP

Billy Graziadei - guitar, vocals
Bobby Hambel - guitar
Scott Roberts - bass, vocals
Danny Schuler - drums

ALBUM

Reborn In Defiance

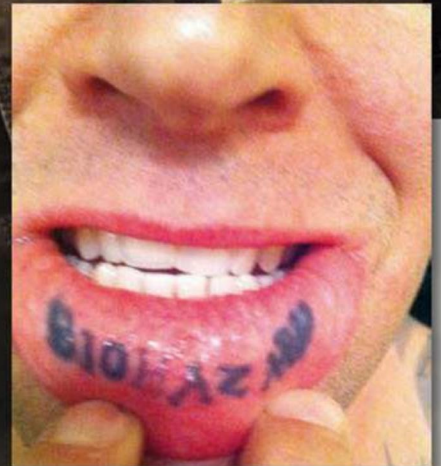
LABEL

Roadrunner (only in Europe)

PHOTOS

Roadrunner/ courtesy of the artist

www.biohazard.com
Facebook: biohazardDFL; billybiohazard



YOU COULD SPEND HOURS LISTENING TO BILLY GRAZIADEI, THE HARDCORE-CROSSOVER LEGEND FROM BIOHAZARD, TALKING ABOUT INK AND HIS FRIENDS IN TATTOOING. HIS FASCINATING STORIES FLOW AS SWIFTLY AS A TIGHT RIFF FROM ONE OF THEIR FAMOUS PIECES; AND THEIR ALBUM 'REBORN IN DEFIANCE' IS HERE TO ENTERTAIN US AND TO REMIND US THAT THESE UNTAMED WARRIORS FROM BROOKLYN ARE BACK IN FULL FORCE. JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

So Billy, it would seem that Biohazard and tattoo art have always gone hand in hand since the band started out...Right? Yeah, tattoos for me represent the milestones in my life! I'll always remember the

circumstances in which I have been 'branded', whether it be a crazy night in Paris with Tin Tin or that time with a friend in Kansas who had a sign hanging on his window which read: 'I do tattoos and you can pay me with spare parts for Harley'. (Laughs, Ed.)

Brilliant!

We met again, a while later, at a service station at around 5am... and he was running like hell from the police! I remember he said to me: 'Hey Billy, even though we may never meet again, ink will unite us forever!'

What do you feel when you hear about the tattoo subculture?

I feel at home, as if I were with the family. You know it's always been a question of "them" and "us"... and "they", obviously are the outside world who wants everyone to conform! The tattoo scene is made up of people who choose to live life by their own rules: some have a "fuck the world!" attitude, whilst others are more positive, yet still reject bourgeois values. And I'm proud to belong to this slice of the world!



How did you discover the cult of tattooing for the first time?

Years ago, tattoos were prohibited in New York and you could only get them done illegally. Mikey Perfetto did my first tattoo; he's an artist in Brooklyn who, ironically, had his studio just around the corner from a bar called La Mour, which is where Biohazard was practically born! You know we can't choose our DNA, the colour of our eyes, the shape of our body, but with tattoo art we can really show who we are to anyone who sees us. There are those people who get tattoos because their best friend's doing it, those who want to carry memories on their skin, those who are in love with this subculture, etc. They're all very legitimate choices!

What tattoo did Mikey Perfetto do?

It was a huge dragon which went from my back, up the shoulders and onto the inside of my arm. As a kid I loved old Kung Fu movies and there was this film where in the opening scene the martial arts master marked his skin with a stamp, reproducing the image of a dragon. Wow, from that moment on I've loved those beasts!

Apart from dragons, what are your favourite subjects?

I have loads of interests and I like to represent them in my tattoos. Now, for example, I'm in

New Zealand waiting with the group to take part in the Australian Soundwave festival and I've just had a Maori tattoo done by my friend Sean. Life is just a collection of stories, experiences, friends and memories and that's what tattoos are for! The 'room' is only half full (he touches his skin, Ed.) and I'm deciding carefully how to decorate it because the space is disappearing before my eyes!

I know that you also alternate your passion for tattoos with your love of jiu-jitsu

Exactly, when I get tattooed I avoid training. And when I'm doing jiu-jitsu training...I avoid getting tattooed! I'm always optimizing my free time in fact. (He chuckles, Ed.)

Biohazard has finally released 'Reborn In Defiance', their ninth album. It's an album that for me, has the same feeling as other important works in your career like 'State Of The World Address' and 'Mata Leão'...

We put a lot of soul into 'Reborn In Defiance' and I'm really proud of the way it turned out. It's a record that we put together on the road and recorded during breaks. We're doing the same thing right now and whilst we're on

tour, I compose a whole load of stuff on my portable pro-tools in the hope that I'll be able to get it released quickly...

Last question, Billy: what is the best Biohazard record to listen to whilst you're getting a tattoo?

Well, 'Ink' of course! It's a track hidden on 'State Of The World Address': go and check it out!



NEW SOUNDS

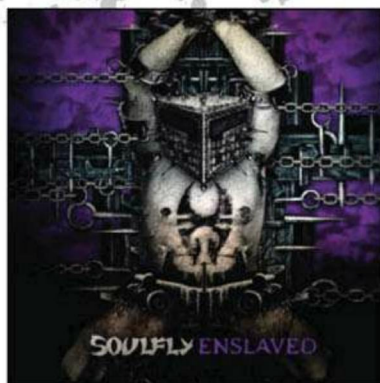
Text by Simone Sacco

SOULFLY

ENSLAVED

(Roadrunner)

Whoever maintains that Soulfly have turned out the same record for the past decade is wrong. Because in this eighth album, *Enslaved* (Max Cavalera wanted an album dedicated to all forms of slavery, old or modern) the drummer is brand spanking new (David Kinkade from Borknagar), the bass guitarist is the energetic Tony Campos (old acquaintance of Static-X and Ministry) and the desire to wage war is glaringly obvious: *World Scum*, in fact, is 100% deathcore, *Gladiator* has a martial feel to it and *American Steel* and *Plato O Plomo* provide an amazingly



executed groove-metal. Last but not least, the final track, *Revengeance* surprises us with the appearance of Max's son (the young Zyon Cavalera) who launches into a progressive piece confirming that good blood never lies. No doubt about it, it's a good job!

SAXON

HEAVY METAL THUNDER LIVE EAGLES OVER WACKEN

(UDR Music)

This time there is everything you could possibly dream of. And by everything, we mean "absolutely everything". For what we presume to be their "definitive" live album, the sprightly Saxon are continuing with the everlasting theme of the eagle (remember the first *The Eagle Has Landed* dates back thirty years...) and have released a 2-CD box set (containing 24 live tracks recorded in Glasgow on the 14th April 2011) plus a DVD which contains their best performances on stage at the Wacken festival in Germany in 2004, 2007 and 2009. What, you want more? Well hurry along and buy the fantastic



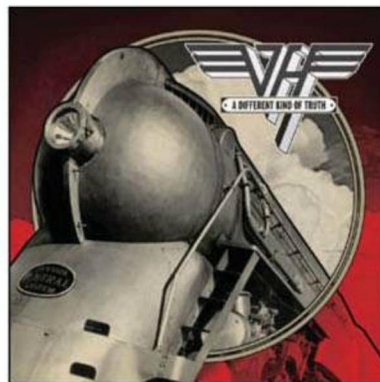
limited edition (only 1000 copies worldwide!), the package of *Heavy Metal Thunder Live - Eagles Over Wacken* has no less than 3 other DVDs plus a flag of the group and a ticket to see Biff Byford and colleagues wherever and whenever you want. Oh, I forgot; it's 100% pure heavy metal! It's all a fan could wish for from the band which brought us *Denim and Leather* and *Wheels Of Steel*.

VAN HALEN

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TRUTH

(Interscope)

The soap opera concerning the comings and goings of Lee Roth has been going on for years (not to mention the 18 long seasons in which the blond, Californian front man didn't set foot in the studio with the band, apart from one or two isolated cases) and yet the expectations for this "new" *A Different Kind Of Truth* (most of the pieces, as the band openly states,



have come from demos over the course of the years...) were enormous, if not overwhelming.

EVE LAST

SONGS OF THE UNGRATEFUL LIVING

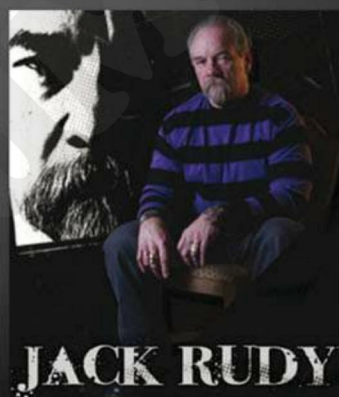
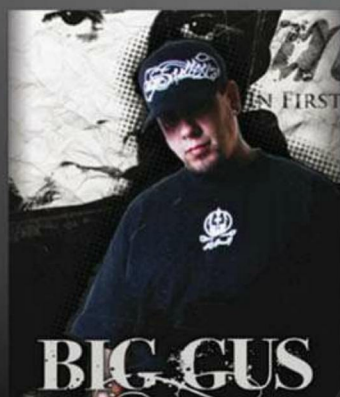
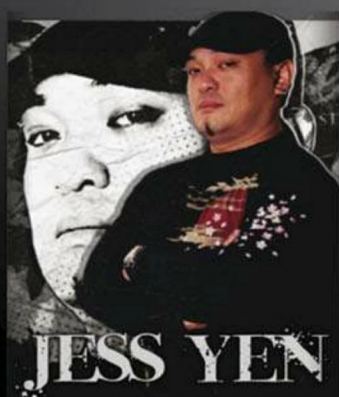
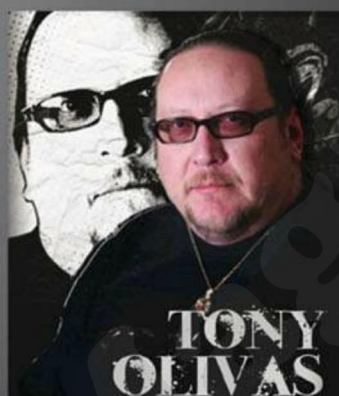
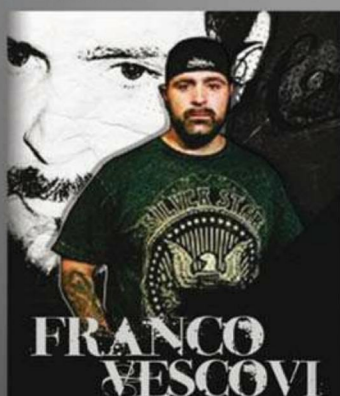
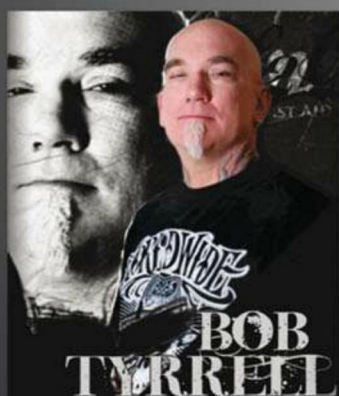
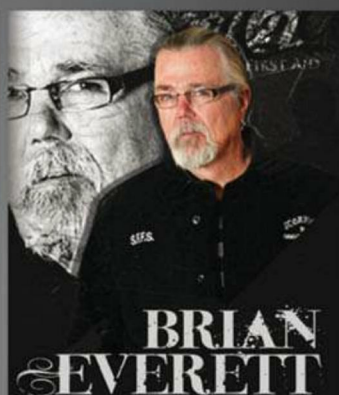
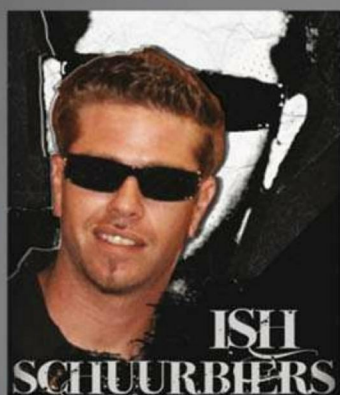
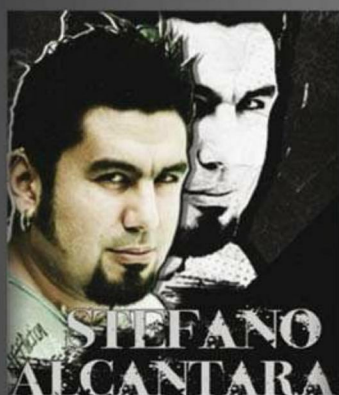
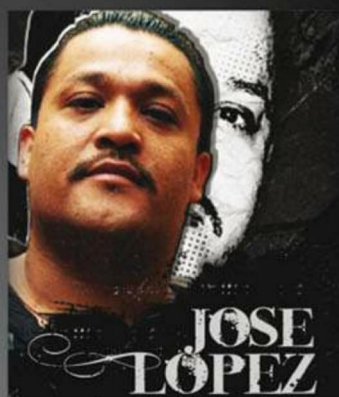
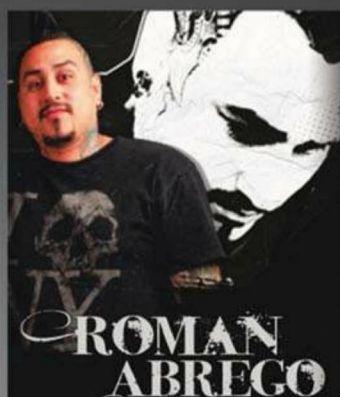
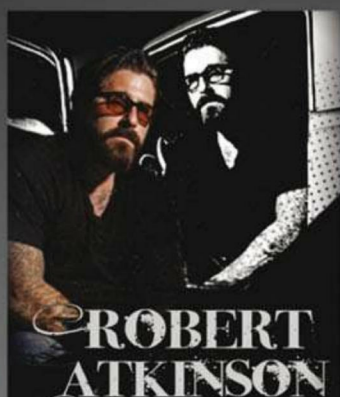
(Martyr Inc.)



Yes, we know: this excellent album by Everlast has been around for a few months, but can we help it continues to revolve tirelessly on our trusty turntable? *Songs Of The Ungrateful Living*, in fact, marks the return of a true artist whom the more 'elderly' amongst you will remember as the leader of the House Of Pain (they did *Jump Around*), whilst the younger generation will appreciate him as a member of the super group La Coka Nostra. In his solo career, however, Erik Francis Schrodty loves concentrating on the acoustic guitar and more intimate atmospheres; it's white blues influenced naturally by the key elements of rap music (beats, sound effects, turntablism etc...) but it's his voice that will make you want to buy this new album. The best tracks: the splendid *Little Miss America*, the hot *Long Time* and the first single *I Get By*. Engaging atmospheres with no illusions in this highly recommended full-length. (Andrea Rock/Virgin Radio)

Fortunately it wasn't an anti-climax and the Van Halen of 2012 which consists of the brothers Eddie and Alex and is reinforced by the return of David on vocals and Wolfgang (Eddie's son) on bass, have chosen the path of very hard metal. The Sammy Hagar ballads of the 80s have been left aside and they coax us with pieces like *Tattoo* (how could we not mention this one?), *Blood and Fire*, *China Town*, the funky *The Trouble With Never* and the free and easy blues in *Stay Frosty*. It's not just a simple reunion album, more like a miracle of nostalgia.

ARE YOU AFTERCARELESS? THEY AREN'T!



BATMAN

PORTRAITS

Text by Simone Sacco

CREATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1939 AT THE HANDS OF THE CARTOON GENIUS OF BOB KANE AND BILL FINGER, THERE ARE ALREADY AS MANY AS EIGHT FILMS DEVOTED TO THE MYTH OF BATMAN. NINE, IN FACT, IF WE INCLUDE THE UPCOMING 'THE DARK KNIGHT RISES' WHICH WILL BE RELEASED IN THE UNITED STATES ON JULY 12, 2012 AND WHICH INTENDS TO CONCLUDE THE "TRILOGY OF THE RESURRECTION" WHICH BEGAN SEVEN YEARS AGO WITH 'BATMAN BEGINS'. WE CELEBRATE THE FIGURE OF THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND BRING YOU SOME TEMPTING PREVIEWS...

The rumours concerning a new chapter of Batman were circulating when the credits of **'The Dark Knight'** were closing, the unfortunate film from 2008 ("unfortunate" because the villain in this movie, which was the sadistic Joker played by **Heath Ledger**, died a few weeks after the final filming). This was the sequel to **'Batman Begins'** which, three seasons earlier, had brought glamour to a cinematographic saga which had been somewhat in decline since the '90s. After the huge initial success (how could we fail to mention the two blockbusters **'Batman'** and **'Batman Returns'**, both blatantly dark and directed by the genius Tim Burton?), Bruce Wayne, the millionaire philanthropist (alias the guy who hides behind the bat mask) had started to lose his verve. Two other productions (**'Batman Forever'** from '95 and **Batman and Robin** from '97) were lacking the Burton-style emotion and reduced the superhero to a mainstream character 'for all the family'. This had been already been the case with the forerunning **Batman** comics (the first in the series was published in 1943!), then **Batman and Robin** which came out in 1949 and its 1966 version **'Batman'** interpreted by the unforgettable, (if somewhat chubby!) American actor Adam West and based on the popular television series at that time. Clearly, in order to give depth to this character Burton's mastery was required first and foremost (together with the presence of **Michael Keaton** in the title role...) and not the disappointing **Batman** as recreated by **Val Kilmer** in the 1995 film followed two years later by the flop featuring none other than **George Clooney** who was cast totally in the wrong role. So the franchise was put on hold for a while until 2005 when Warner Bros cast **Christian Bale** (famous for 'Velvet Goldmine' and 'The Machinist') together with the direc-

tor **Christopher Nolan**, who thanks to 'Memento' and 'Insomnia' had produced only winners. 'Batman Begins' was a box office success. But there was more to it than this: it had a solid script (Wayne's childhood was featured), a perfect cast (Bale, **Michael Caine**, **Liam Neeson**, **Gary Oldman** etc), Oscar-like cinematography and deep psychology infused into each character. 'The Dark Knight' (and Ledger's scar-faced Joker) was even more successful and now it's the turn of **'The Dark Knight Rises'** which will be released in the States on the 12th July and which will feature, apart from the now-established Bale, Caine and Oldman) a new villain (the dreadful Bane interpreted by the British actor **Tom Hardy**) and **Anne Hathaway** in the sexy guise of Catwoman. An opening scene (where Dr Pavel is kidnapped whilst boarding a plane...) has been described by the cinematographer Wally Pfister as 'simply awesome'. Filmed in 2011 in various locations around the world (India, London, Los Angeles, New York etc.)



Cecil Porter, Cecil Porter Studio, Murrieta, USA

and based on the dogma of director Nolan ("the most important aspect of a movie like this is not the budget but the storyline"), **The Dark Knight Rises** is set to become the film of the year. In short, we have just this to add: happy 73rd birthday, dear Batman!



Zsolt Sarkozi, Dark Art Tattoo, Budapest, Hungary

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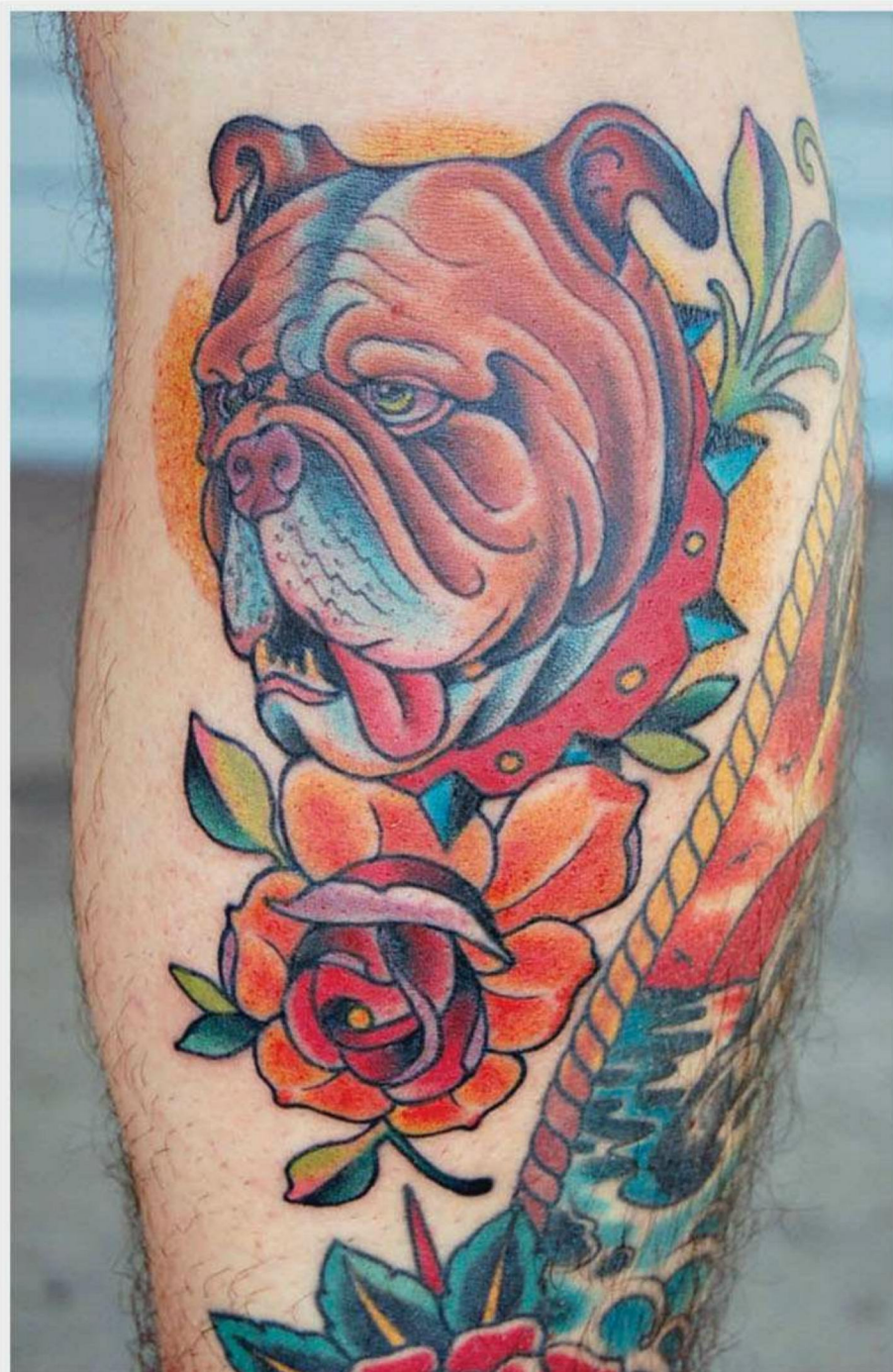
Tattoo Symbology

BULLDOG

AFFECTIONATE, GENTLE, LOVED BY BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN, MASCOT OF THE MAJOR ANGLO-SAXON SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, AN ICON OF GOODNESS AND PURE LAZINESS: BUT HAS THE DEAR BULLDOG ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED IN THIS LIGHT? AND ISN'T HIS CURRENT APPEARANCE (LARGE HEAD, SHORT LEGS AND STOCKY BODY) A CONTRAST TO THE ATHLETIC APPEARANCE OF HIS FIERCE ANCESTORS WHICH DATE BACK TO THE PHOENICIAN TIMES? WE SHALL TRY TO SHED MORE LIGHT ON ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS, PRIZE-WINNING DOGS AMONGST TODAY'S BREEDS.

by SIMONE SACCO

“T here is no doubt about it: the real blackguard of his species. There is really no other way of describing it.” These were the somewhat unkind words used by a journalist from the British magazine **British Field Sports** to describe an example of the **Bulldog** in 1818. “And total extinction of the breed is highly desirable!” continued the author in his controversial article. There’s no denying that those were hard times for this dog which today is synonymous with gentleness, loyalty, submissiveness and affection. But there was a reason for this: during the early 800s England was caught up in the so-called “**Bull-Baiting**” practice (which we will examine later...) and the Bulldog, for its sins, achieved maximum negative popularity. The name (which has been written as **Bondogge**, **Bandogge** or **Bolldogge**), started to circulate towards the end of the 1500, even the bard William Shakespeare quoted it



Jason Anderson, O'Reilly Tattoo, Santa Cruz, USA

in the verse 'The time when screech owls cry and Banddogges howl and spirit walk and ghost break up their graves' from the first act (scene six) of Henry VI. However the origins of this dog are much more distant and dispersed over the course of time...

It has been said, in fact, that the first version of the breed was exported to Great Britain by none other than the **Phoenicians** (the population of expert navigators who settled in Asia Minor in 4000 BC), when they began their exploration of the European territory which took them first to the city of Cadiz (Spain) and then on to the British Isles. The Phoenicians came into contact with these animals thanks to their frequent trading with the Assyrian-Babylonian people, who for many years had been breeding a species of **Molossus** which was said to be a descendent, if not a direct ancestor, of the **great Tibetan dog**. The so-called "Assyrian Mastiffs" were precious and extremely valuable animals (as well as being the earliest ancestors of the Bulldog we know today) and became a firm favourite of the people of Britain



Han, King of Kings, Swalmen, Holland

who lost no time in having them breed immediately with other Celtic species. The mix was obviously irresistible and eventually a ferocious, powerful species of dog

developed which never tired and was never tame. These were animals which were used for both hunting and for keeping guard. A new breed was evolving...

In 55 and 54 BC, these same dogs created countless problems for Caesar's centurions, who in that very period had started the Roman occupation of England arriving at the border with Scotland. The Roman soldiers, who feared and suffered regularly at the jaws of these creatures, called them simply "**pugnaces britanni-ae**" and they led them to Rome where they were met by an appreciative local population. Following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire (fifth century AD), the continuous invasions in England by the Saxon, Danish and Norman warriors ensured that the "pugnaces" mutated – following more cross breeding – into Molossus which are similar to the "**Mastiff**" we are familiar with today. This breed was favoured by the local landlords who lived in the land of Albion and who endeavoured in every way to protect their property from feudalism. So 1209 was an important year



Jason Morrow, Big Brain, Omaha, USA



Pietro Rizzo, Pixel Tattoo, Misterbianco, Italy



Bugsy, Third Eye Tattoo, Melbourne, Australia

in the evolution of the Bulldog, the year in which a rich lord from Stamford saw

two mastiffs, which belonged to a local butcher, attacking a bull (!!!) and reducing it to small pieces. Struck by such ferocity and courage, Lord Stamford donated the land where the event took place to the local butchers on the condition that every year, six weeks before Christmas, the blood-thirsty event should be repeated...

This was the start of the previously mentioned "Bull-Baiting", which was a blood sport that took hold and was practiced in many English villages (NB in some cities in Britain today you can still see the stake to which the unfortunate bovine was tethered with a thick rope some thirty feet long...). It was a "sport" and the aim was for the dogs to "kill or immobilise the bull in a makeshift pen". The clashes were akin to a horror film before its time, and to escape the horns of the bull that was desperately fighting for survival, small, ferocious little dogs that could withstand to pain were sent into the arena with only pathetic armour made from animal hide or bamboo for protection: these were the so-called "Bandogge" which Shakespeare wrote about; he most probably witnessed one of



Greg Sumii, Tower Tattoos, Fresno, USA

these tremendous battles and was left somewhat impressed... "Bull-Baiting", in spite of its brutal nature, was greatly appreciated by the public and was soon extended to include other animals (in place of the bull) such as bears, donkeys and even lions... It was in this atmosphere of blood and mutilation that the name "Bulldog" began to take off and in 1631 (or 1632, sources are not clear on this point...) a certain **Preswick Eaton**, an Anglo Saxon merchant, asked a subordinate to obtain "two excellent Bulldogs and have them sent to me as soon as possible on the first ship available for England", he was perhaps referring to a well-known breeder of fighting dogs which had sprung up in Aquitaine, in the Bordeaux region to be precise.

However, despite the public's increasing demand for displays of animal ferocity, the sad practice disappeared – at least from public – and in 1835 with the issuing of the **Cruelty to Animals Act**, which was a law which prohibited the perpetration of acts of cruelty on bulls, dogs, bears and sheep (only rats were excluded from the list...) and categorically banned both Bull-Baiting and cock-fighting. Yet the challenges continued illegally until a fight involving a bull caused so much uproar that the police



Davide Andreoli, Italian Rooster, Rho, Italy



Jartsa, *The Duck's Tattoo*, Helsinki, Finland

had to be involved, so for the greater part of the 800s most Bulldogs had to fight amongst themselves. Thus in the years following 1835, the breeding of this species diminished dramatically, even though these dogs were already widespread in the New World of America. Some columns at this time (middle of the 17th century) report that an order



John Raftery, *Dare Devil Tattoo*, NYC, USA

from the Governor of New York, **Richard Nicolls**, demanded that Bulldogs be used to guard or carry out reconnaissance in the newly formed metropolis.

The rebirth of the Bulldog, however, took place on the 3rd and 4th of December 1860 when a specimen, very similar to the one we know and love today, was presented. The first champion was the celebrated **King Dick** (born in 1858) and belonged to **J. Lamphier** who in 1861 went on to publish the first official standard (large head, flat nose, short limbs, squat body) which had to be observed in order to obtain the ideal breed. In 1878 the first **Bulldog Club** was formed with its headquarters at the **Blue Post** in Oxford Street, London, even though other dog lovers spoke of similar associations which had already sprung up in 1864 following the success of King Dick... In 1891, two specimens of the breed, **Orry** and **Dockleaf**, entered a competition to see which one could walk the farthest suffering the least fatigue. It was an historical competition since Orry who was completely docile and gentle, was reminiscent of the specimens used at the time of the fearful Bull-Baiting with her slender shape, whilst Dockleaf was more squat and heavy with shorter limbs and short of stature just like his contemporary descendants. For the record, it is said that the model of this "new

Bulldog" was **Rosa**, the female dog who appeared in the famous 'Crib and Rosa' painting by **Abram Cooper** in 1817.

Amazingly enough and against all odds, the stocky Dockleaf was declared the winner over Orry by fans who immediately understood how capable this athletic new breed was of competing and facing up to resistance tests, in spite of the scepticism and fear that he was unable to breathe properly. The success was such that the controversial Irish-American politician, **Richard Crocker** didn't think twice about spending 5000 pounds (an unbelievable amount of money...) to snap up **Ch Rodney Stone**, an exemplary prize-winner, who featured in all the major magazines about the breed. The dog which would become loved by adults and children became the official mascot for countless British, American, Canadian and Australian sporting associations (not counting the tributes in the world of football, rugby, ice-hockey, baseball, basketball, etc.) and was once and for all a part of the "modern age". Here it stands, and is loved and revered more and more, even in 2012. Give me your paw, buddy!

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REGGIE



Nick Chaboya, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA

Randy Engelhard, Heaven of Colours, Zwickau, Germany





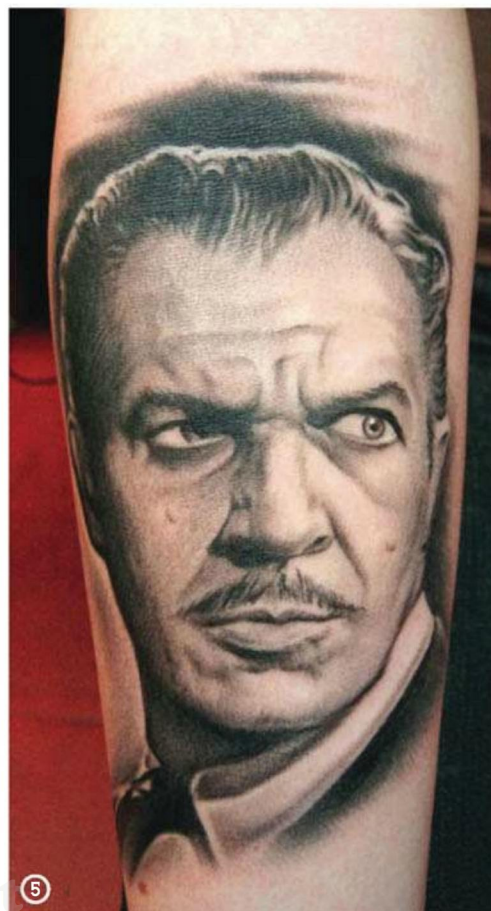
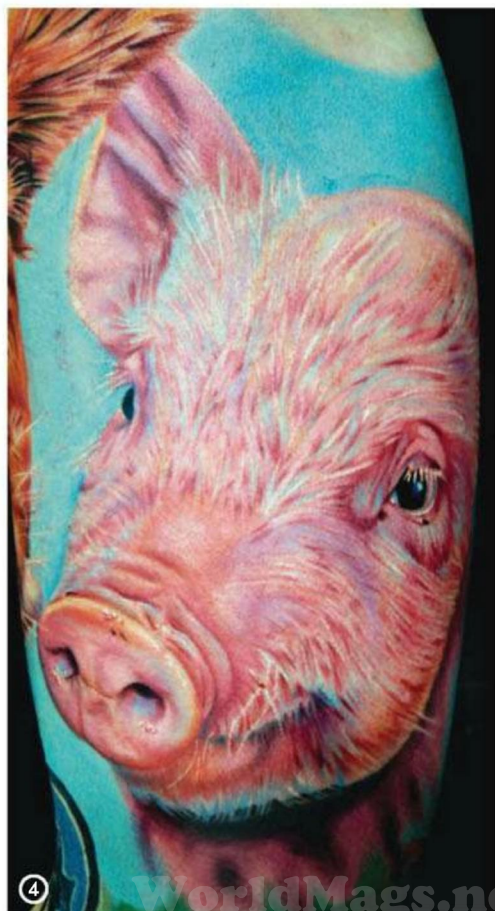
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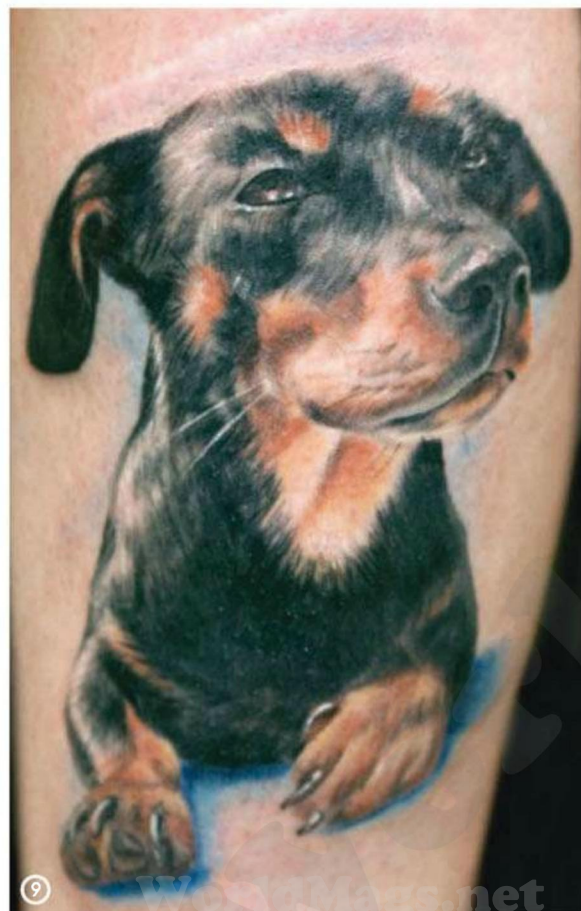
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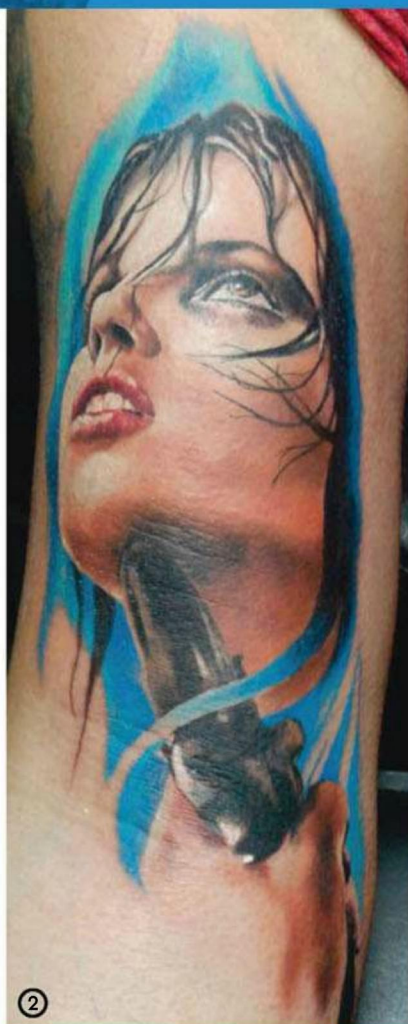
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Citrus Heights, USA



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② Oddboy
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③ Silvano Fiato
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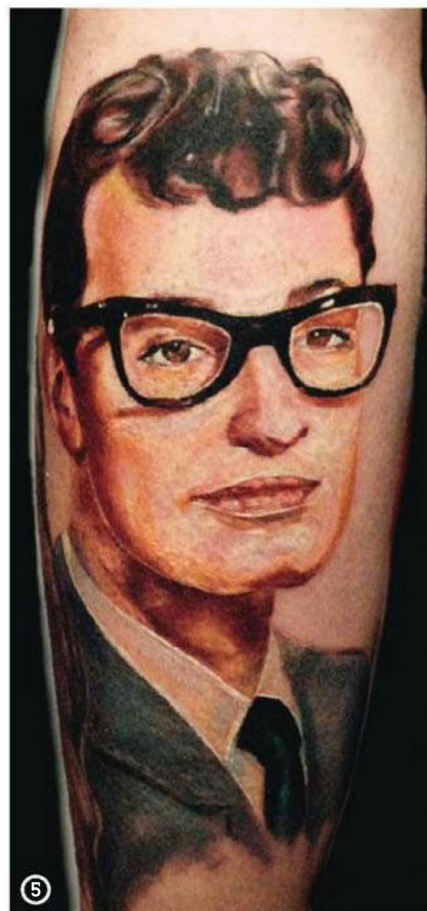
④ Anabi-Tattoo
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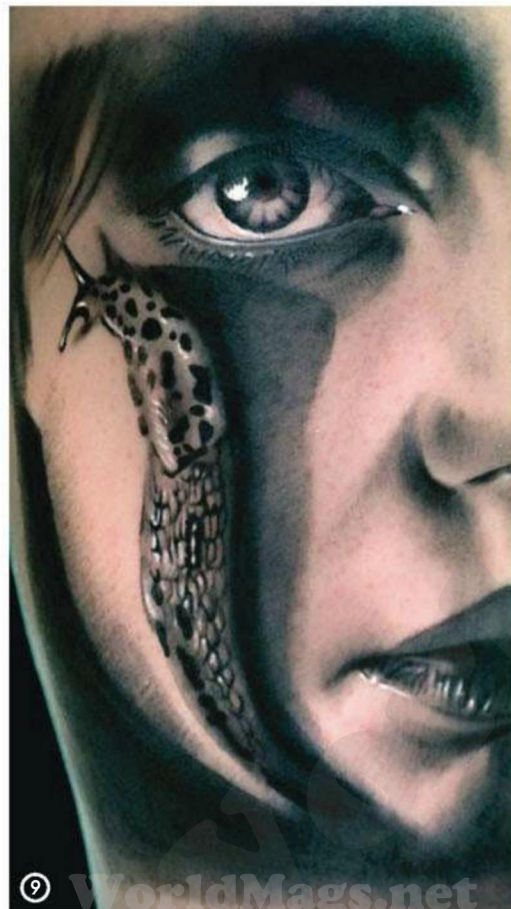
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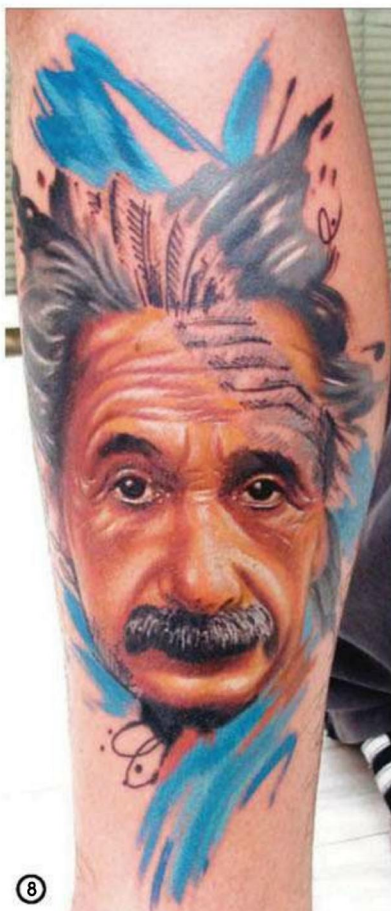
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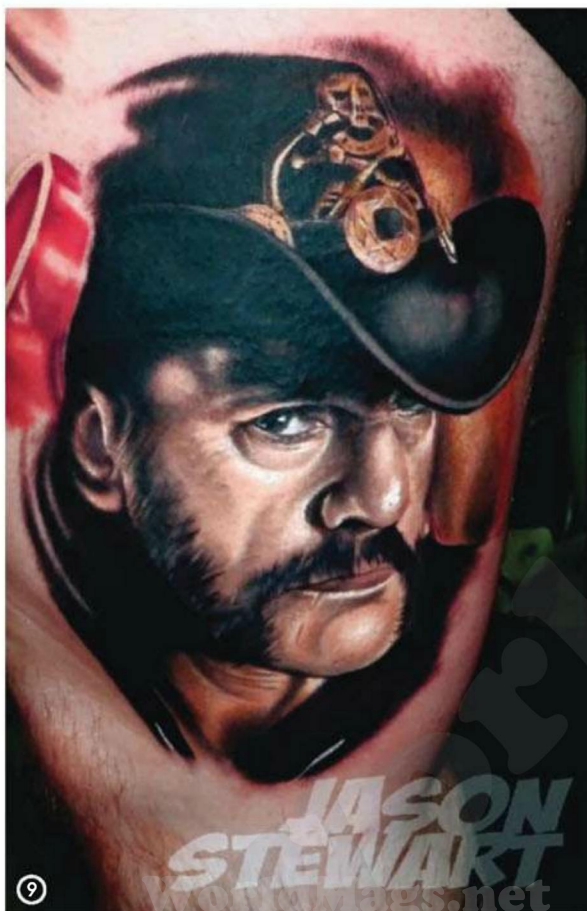
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5 Randy Engelhard
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6 Jun Cha
Lowrider Tattoo
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7 Bez
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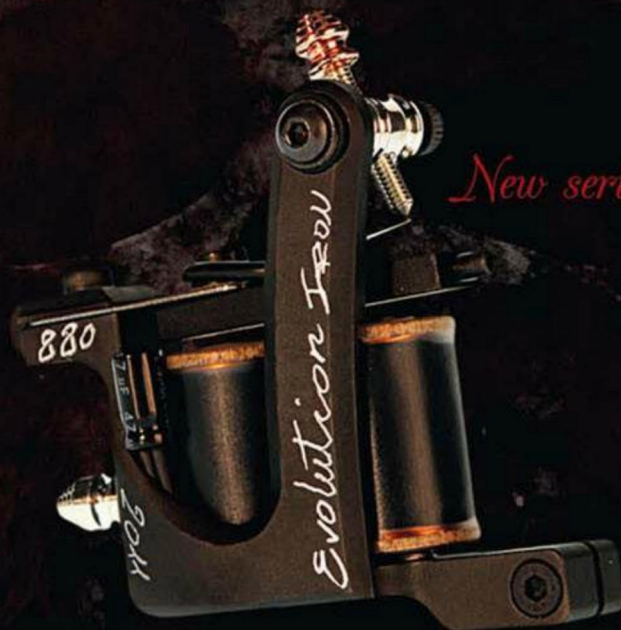
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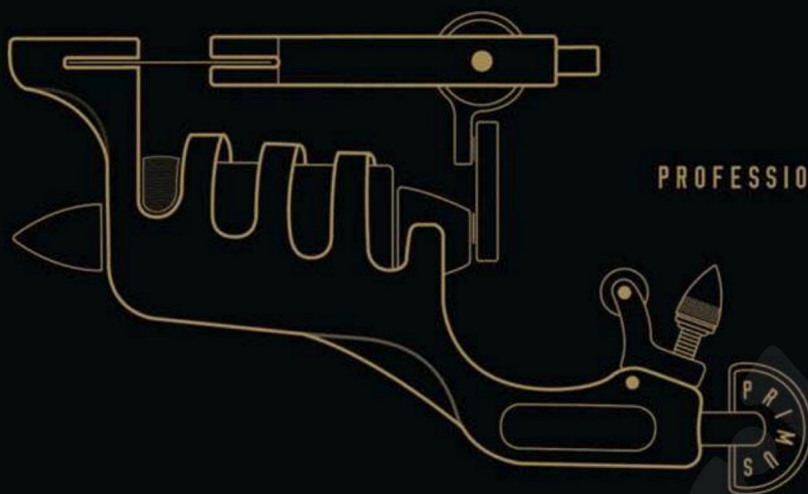
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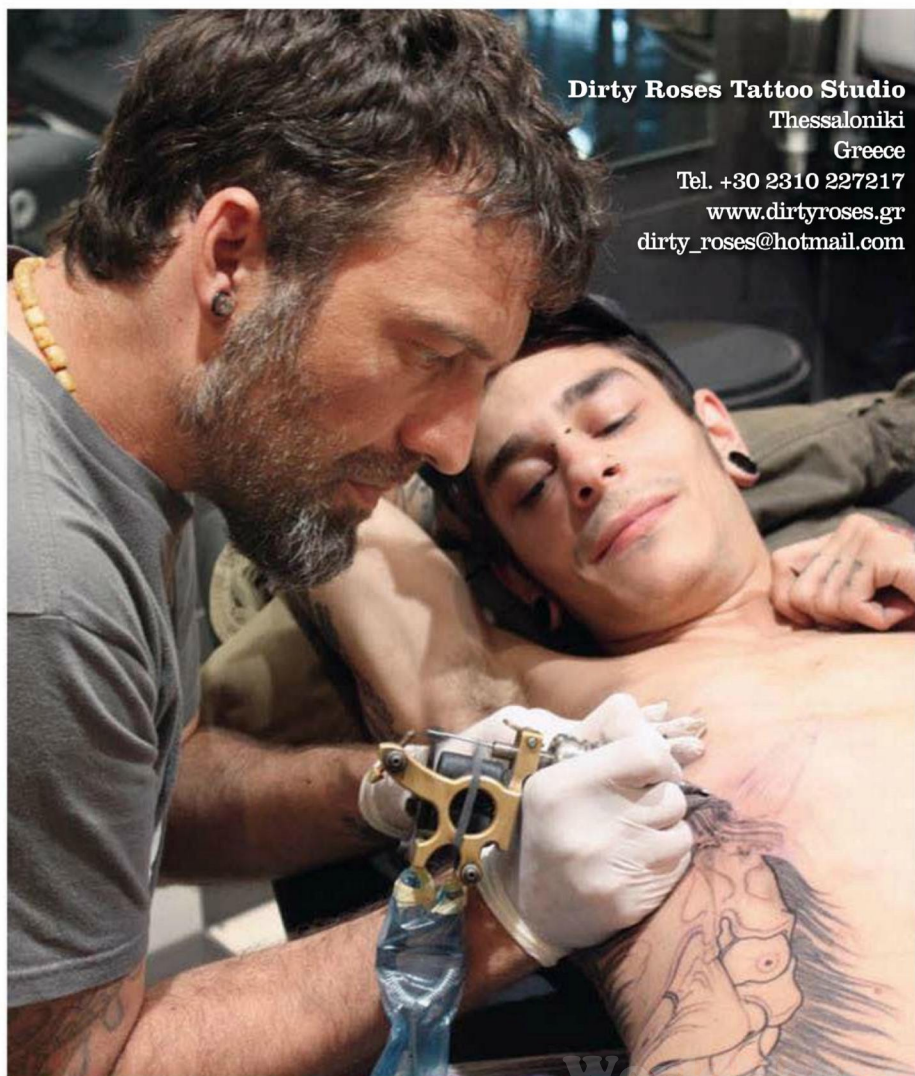
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KOSTAS

HE FELL IN LOVE WITH ORIENTAL STYLE AND THEN THERE FOLLOWED MANY YEARS OF ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND ENTHUSIASTIC DEDICATION TO HIS CAREER. THIS IS HOW KOSTAS HAS TODAY BECOME ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN, PRIZE-WINNING ARTISTS IN GREECE AND EUROPE. HE WORKS AT THE DIRTY ROSES TATTOO STUDIO IN THESSALONIKI TOGETHER WITH HIS COLLEAGUE ALEX GOTZA. HIS TALENT IS CONTINUALLY EVOLVING AND HIS SECRET LIES IN THE CONTINUAL COMPARING OF NOTES WITH OTHERS, SHARING IDEAS AND RESEARCH.

Text by Stefania Perosin



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Greece
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THE GREEK ATTACK!





HI KOSTAS, FIRST OF ALL I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE TATTOO ART SCENE IN GREECE. DO YOU AGREE THAT IT HAS REALLY TAKEN OFF LATELY?

The tattoo art scene in Greece is getting better day by day. The last years I have seen magnificent tattoos done by Greek artists. As a matter of fact, in many conventions people ask me "What has been happening with your Greek artists lately?!" I call it "the Greek attack!"

ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH OTHER TATTOO ARTISTS FROM YOUR COUNTRY? DO YOU OFTEN MEET TO COMPARE NOTES?

I am always trying to meet other tattoo artists and talk about tattooing and drawing. Talking with other artists is a source of inspiration. If you don't share and exchange your knowledge, difficulties and opinions about tattooing with other people that do the same job, how can you ever get better?

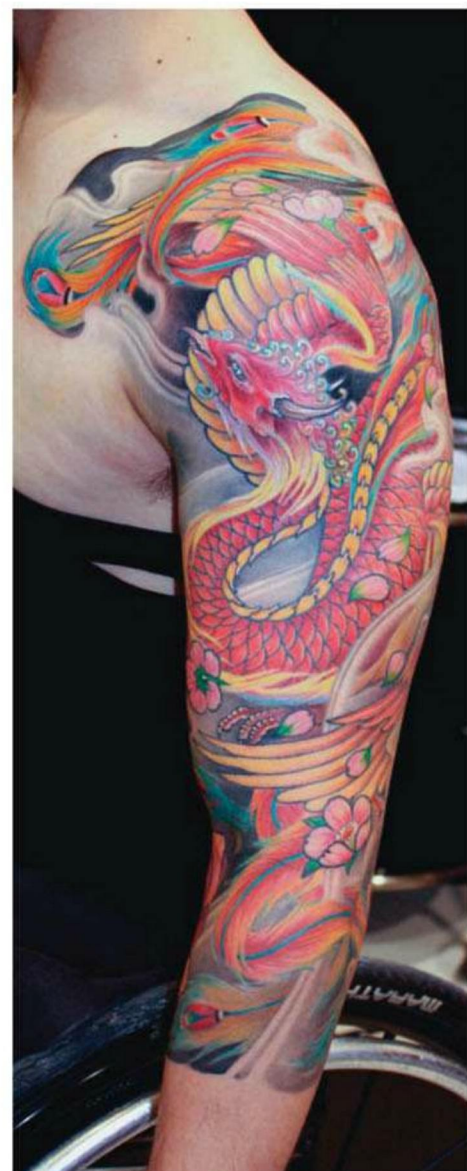
WHEN DID YOU START TATTOOING AND WHAT IS YOUR ARTISTIC BACKGROUND?

I started tattooing 12 years ago. Before that I didn't have a clue about drawing and I didn't study at an art school. I think that if I had been to such a school it would have helped me to understand some things more easily.

WHEN DID YOU OPEN YOUR DIRTY ROSES TATTOO STUDIO IN THESSALONIKI?

We opened Dirty Roses Tattoo studio two and a half years ago. It was an idea that me and Alex Gotza had. We are co-workers but the most important thing of all is that we are friends. We spend a lot of time together everyday inside and outside the studio. I feel very lucky to have met Gotza because he has helped me a lot.

YOUR STYLE IS ORIENTAL BUT IT'S REINTERPRETED WITH A PREFERENCE FOR DETAIL AND BALANCE WITHIN THE COMPOSITION. COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO US







HOW YOU ARRIVED AT THIS PERSONAL STYLE?

I think when you discover the Oriental style there is no turning back! I never had anyone to teach me how to draw so I have been trying to understand the structure of Oriental tattoo by observing the works of other tattoo artists. All of them were my teachers and they have affected me. I got results after a lot of time and effort.

COLOUR SEEMS TO PLAY A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE IMAGES. IS THIS THE CASE?

I like black and gray and full colour tattoos equally. I try not to be so flash when I put colours together but darker and more dull!!

WHERE DO YOU GET THE INSPIRATION FOR YOUR WORK? IS IT ART, MUSIC, CINEMA OR BOOKS PERHAPS?

The inspiration can come from everywhere. I spend a lot of time thinking about the tattoos I have to do so sometimes when a good idea comes to mind I get stuck with it and think about it all the time.

HOW DO YOUR TATTOOS ORIGINATE? DO YOU DECIDE ON THE SUBJECT OR DO YOU REINTERPRET YOUR CLIENTS' IDEAS AND SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES?

Usually I discuss with the clients what they want to do. I always suggest new things that they don't know about and depending on how positive they are, I decide what to draw. Showing them the structure of the tattoo we decide together about some small changes, some details and the sketch is done. Some of my clients have great ideas.

HAVE YOU EVER REFUSED TO CARRY OUT A TATTOO?

There are times that I refuse to make a tattoo because I know the result is not going to be the desired one. So if I see that a tattoo they ask me for is not going to be a good one, I just DON'T DO IT! Why make something that you won't enjoy?

WHICH ARTISTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH AND WHICH MASTERS INSPIRE YOU?

I have been inspired and influenced by many tattoo masters by observing their work. Such

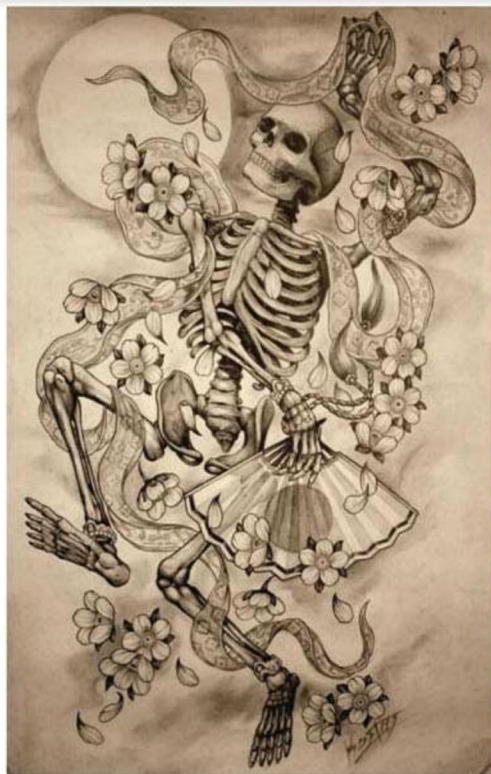




masters are Claus Fuhrman, Fillip Leu, Horiyoshi, Shige and many others. Without knowing it, those artists are my teachers.

DO YOU HAVE ANY TRAVELS OR GUEST SPOTS COMING UP? WHICH CONVENTIONS WILL YOU ATTEND IN 2012?

I have a lot of work here in Greece so it's difficult for me to be on a guest spot in another studio. I hope I can make it next year. But this year me and Gotza are going to be at many tattoo conventions such as Rock'n'Ink, Summer Fest, Tattoo Fest at Krakow, London, Brussels, Barcelona, Florence and maybe some others.





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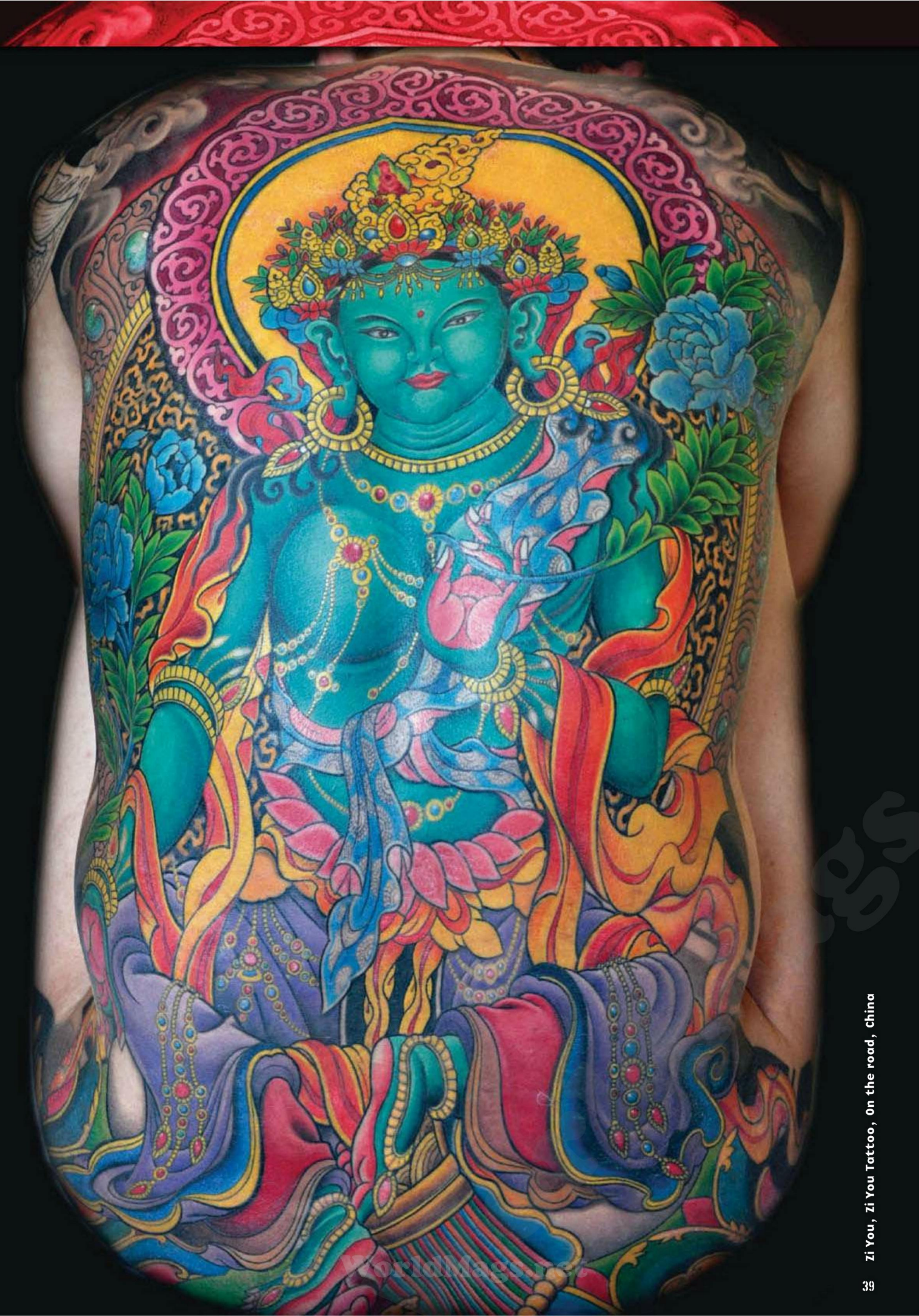
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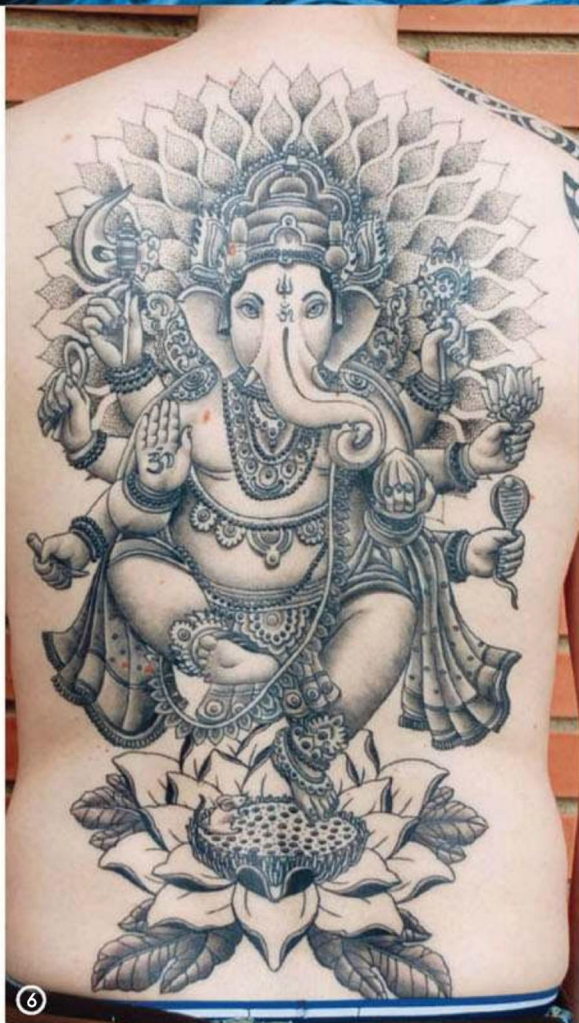
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⑤ Oleg Turyanskiy
Oleg Turyanskiy Tattoo
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Victor Morales Tatooing
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⑦ Paul Dhuey
Guru Tattoo
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⑧ Jondix
On the road,
Barcelona, Spain

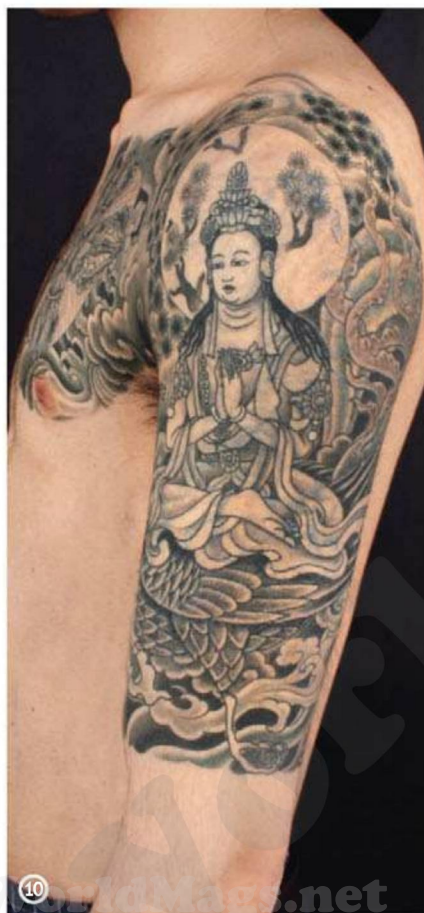
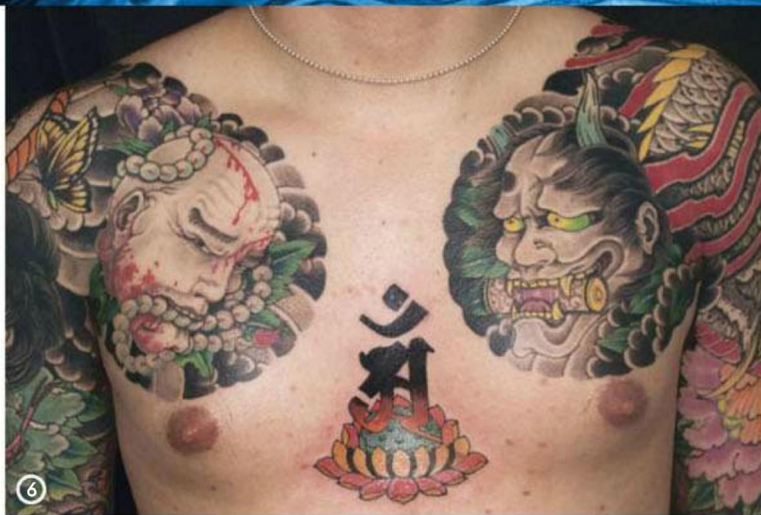
⑨ Yliana Paolini
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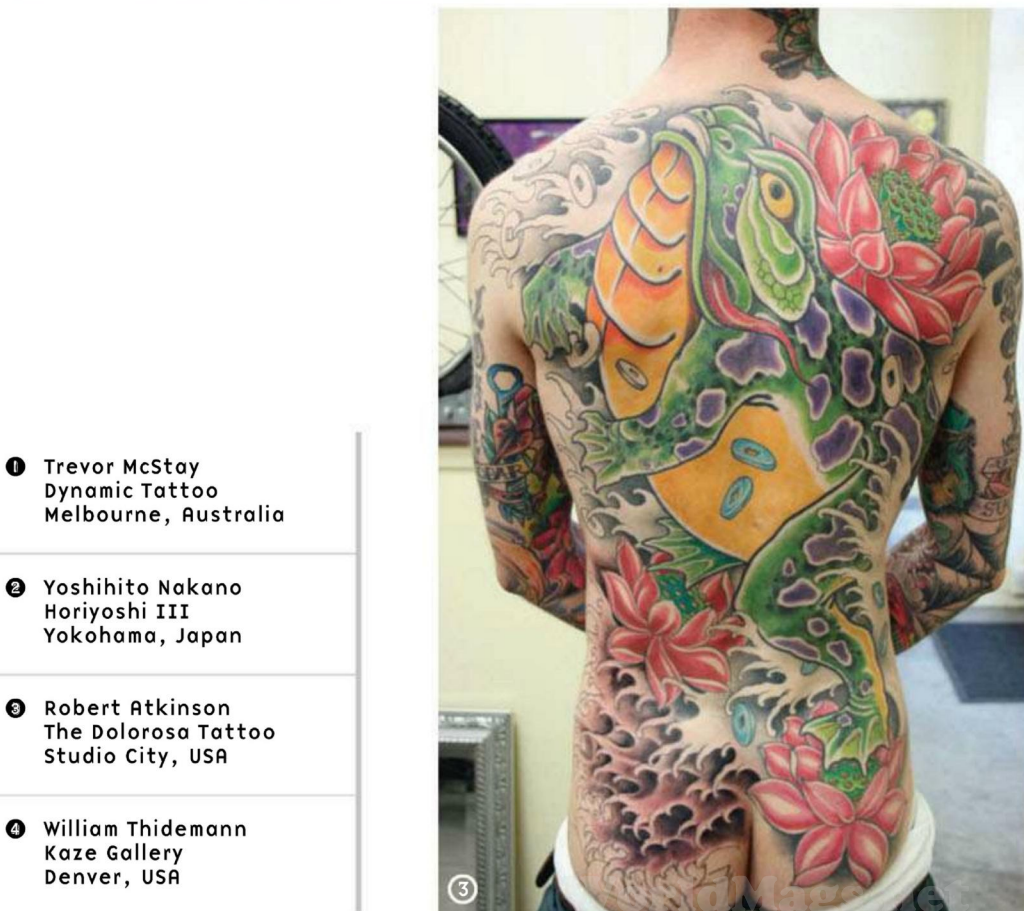
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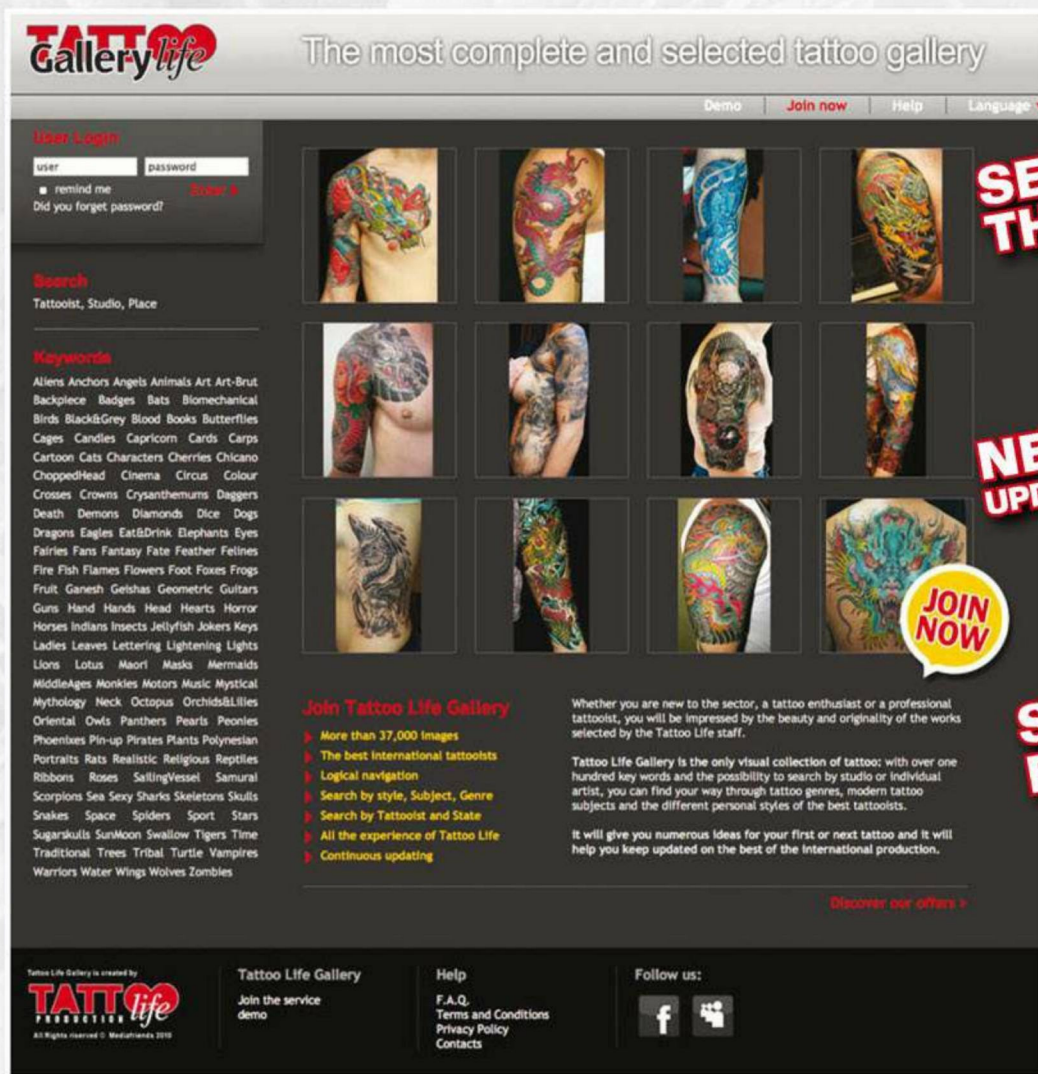
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KYLE COTTERMAN

REALISTIC MASTER





K

YLE COTTERMAN
IS A YOUNG
AND TALENTED
ARTIST. HE IS

ONE OF THOSE GUYS, FROM
THE USA, WHO IS ALWAYS
PUSHING THE LIMITS OF
TATTOOING HIGHER. OUR
FIRST CONTACT WAS AT
THE EVIAN TATTOO SHOW,
A FEW YEARS BEFORE.
I CAUGHT HIM AGAIN AT
THE PARADISE TATTOO
GATHERING IN SEPTEMBER
2011, FOR A LONG TALK...
ACTION!

Article by David « dats » Racana
Photos by Kyle Cotterman



Kyle Cotterman
Distinction Tattoo
www.KyleCotterman.com

HELLO KYLE ! CAN YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF IN A FEW WORDS?

Hello, my name is Kyle Cotterman. I'm a 29 year old tattoo artist from Dayton, Ohio. I have a private studio called Distinction Tattoo. I love my life, and all the people in it. I have the best wife in the world and two of the cutest dogs you could ever lay eyes on.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A TATTOO ARTIST?

Well I didn't really know that I would end up being a tattoo artist. My father really introduced me to the tattoo scene many years ago when Marty Holcomb and Jonathan Shaw were heavily in print in the tattoo magazines. Throughout the years I always looked at the magazines but never thought twice about being the guy on the other side of the machine. Then one day my dad told me about this guy that was going to tattoo him, and I couldn't believe what I saw! His name was Brian Brenner and he was doing some of the craziest work I had seen at the time. Well my father knew I had a love of art, so



he asked me if I would ever want to be a tattoo artist. I said yes, so he proceeded to speak with Brian about an apprenticeship for me. One thing lead to another, and he said he would take me under his wing. I've been tattooing for almost 7 years now, and he's been my mentor since day one.

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TATTOOING?

I really think I have learned how to tattoo

from just about everyone I have come into contact with in the tattoo scene. I think I've learned the most from people that have tattooed me, because each tattoo is like a private seminar. Everyone I have had the privilege of getting tattooed by has graciously answered numerous questions about their approach on tattooing. Its really the best time to learn, because its being done right in front of you. I think as long as you don't annoy your artist, questions about tattooing are just fine... in moderation. Haha.

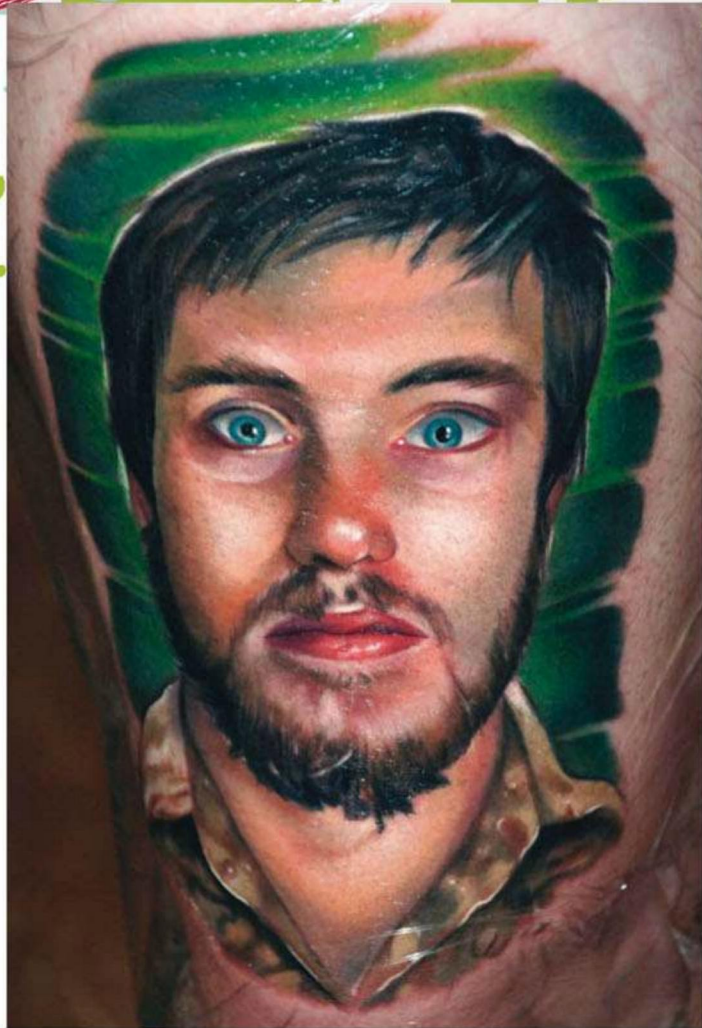
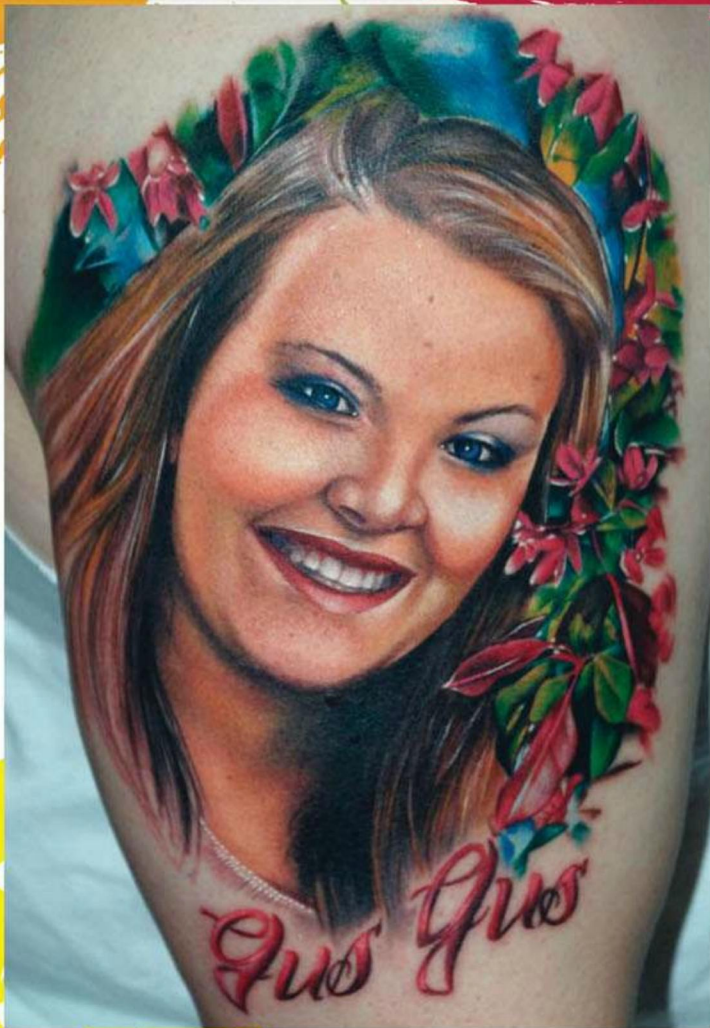
YOUR TATTOO STYLE IS REALISTIC: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS?

Realism is life. It's everywhere, and everything. I think my eye is naturally attracted to realism because I see art whereas others merely see a picture. It is limitless, and it is always in style. I really think it will be a style of tattooing that will never go away.

WHO ARE THE TATTOO ARTISTS THAT INFLUENCE YOUR ART ?

That's a really tough question. It's kind of





hard to write all the people down, because I feel like so many people influence me, on so many different levels. But if I had to choose just a few, I would say Mike DeVries, Nikko Hurtado, Joshua Carlton, Robert Hernandez, Boris, Timmy B and the list goes on and on.

WITH THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, SOME TATTOO SHOPS ARE HAVING A BAD TIME RIGHT NOW : HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF THE TATTOO INDUSTRY ?

I think the future of tattoo shops won't be affected much by the economic crisis that we are facing today. I feel that tattoos will be a part of society until the end of time. No matter how hard times seem to be on people, there will always be someone that saves up every last penny for their priceless piece of artwork that they will eventually wear on the body until they die. I also think that if you are pushing yourself as an artist, people will notice and be more inclined to get a tattoo from you. Some shops may come and go, but I really think that the strong will survive.

YOU LIVE IN THE USA, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF REALITY TV SHOWS ABOUT



TATTOOING: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS ? IS IT A POSITIVE THING?

I think there are pros and cons in having shows about tattooing. The upside, is that tattoos are thought about more often. Seeing it on TV keeps the idea of getting tattooed fresh in the customers' head. The TV shows also showcase a few good artists, so it can sometimes prove how good a tattoo can look. The bad side is that a majority of people watching these shows don't get a true view of what it's really like

to get a tattoo. Television presents a nice little story, a drawing that looks like it took 15 minutes, and a tattoo that was done even faster. Well that's not how it works! Hard work and dedication to your craft doesn't even get mentioned. The set up time, the hours of drawing, and the even more grueling hours of concentration on your tattoo don't get any recognition. These TV shows also exploit our industry in a bad light acting like life in the tattoo shop is like a day on the set of an over dramatic soap opera. Everything has to be a problem or confrontation, and honestly its pretty fucking stupid! I like to be drama-free, so leave that shit at home!

YOU TRAVEL TO TATTOO CONVENTIONS, IN USA AND ALSO IN EUROPE : WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THESE EVENTS ?

I think the thing I like the most about conventions is just seeing all of your peers. You and a ton of other artists getting together to do what you love best is a great feeling. It's almost like being with family. I like catching up with people I haven't seen in a while, and also being able to tattoo people that maybe would not even know who you were, unless you came





to their town. I also like doing badass tattoos! What better time to shine than at a convention!

THE TATTOO INDUSTRY HAS CHANGED A LOT IN THE LAST 10 YEARS : NEW TATTOO MACHINES, NEW INKS, NEW TATTOO ARTISTS... HOW DO YOU LIVE THIS REVOLUTION ?

I embrace the revolution in every way. I am very thankful that I live in a time where technology is rapidly progressing, and the people executing tattoos have risen to a much higher standard when it comes to what they call a quality tattoo. With that said, I am very grateful to be an artist in this current time, and I really have a greater respect for the forefathers of tattooing. I can only imagine what the tattoo game holds another 10 years from now. Hopefully I will be around to witness another revolution.

IN THE BIG TATTOO FAMILY, WHO ARE YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS ?

Hmmm, close friends huh? Well a lot of people are close to my heart. All



my dudes I used to work with at Truth and Triumph tattoo come to mind first! Besides those guys, I have a few favorites. Timmy B from Black 13 is a real sweetheart, and a really, really good artist. He also used to be my babysitter haha. Also, my dude Josh Hathaway from

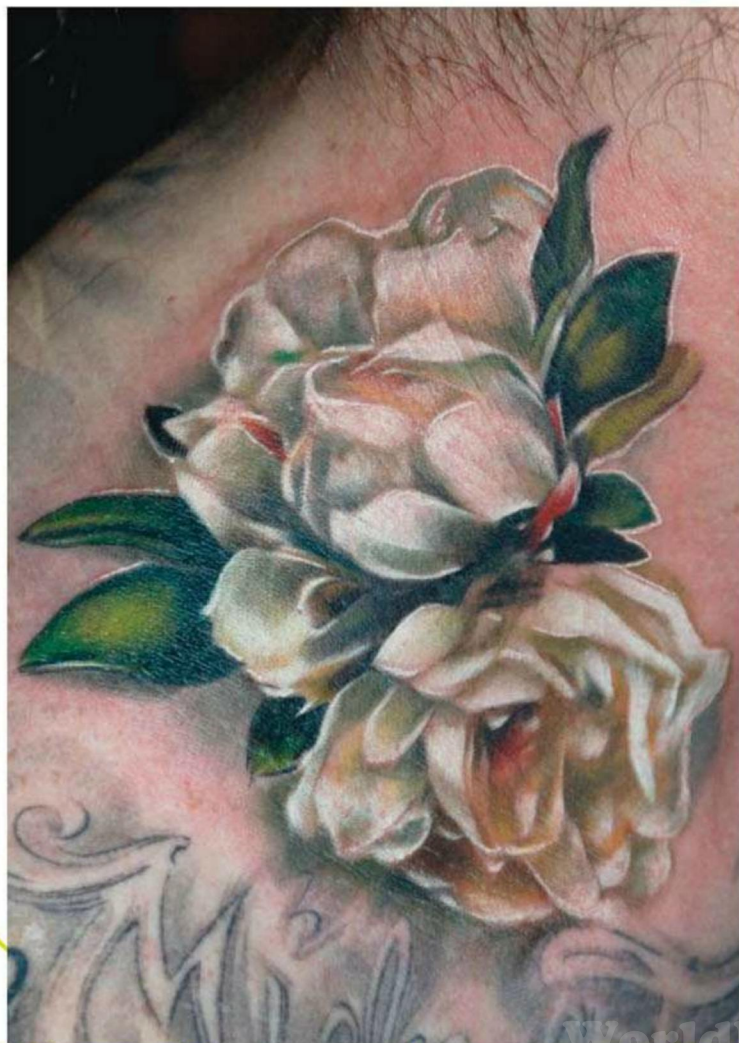
Industry Tattoo. One of the best people I know hands down.

WHAT ARE YOUR PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE ?

Well I have actually just started a private studio here in Dayton, Ohio, so a lot of my time is being spent concentrating on that. I don't have a lot of plans for any projects at the moment, but I am sure something is going to spark my interest in the future to keep my hands full. And speaking of keeping my hands full, me and my beautiful wife Jessica are expecting our first child in November. So hopefully my projects consist of being able to sleep throughout the night!

SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY TO THE TATTOOLIFE MAGAZINE READERS ?

If I could say one thing to all the readers out there it would be best summed up by the late Stoney St. Clair "I choose to pursue my profession with intelligence and skill, wishing not to offend anyone, but instead with my love of mankind do what good I can before I die."





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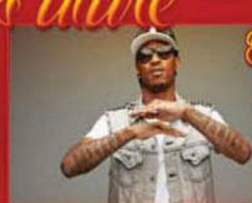
SATURDAY
JULY 14

11AM - 11PM

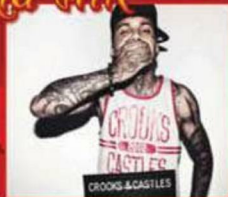
LIVE PERFORMANCES

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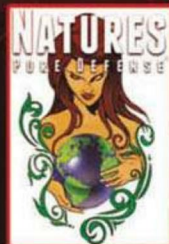
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①



②



③



④

- ① Luke Stewart
Seventh Son Tattoo
San Francisco, USA
- ② Phil Kyle
Magnum Opus Tattoo
Brighton, UK
- ③ Otte Timar
Red Lion Tattoo
Budapest, Hungary
- ④ Ryan Hadley
Revolution Tattoo Gallery
Ft Wayne, USA
- ⑤ Mehdi Le Mair
Bunker Tattoo
Breda, Holland
- ⑥ Ueo
Ueo Tattoo
Como, Italy



⑤



⑥



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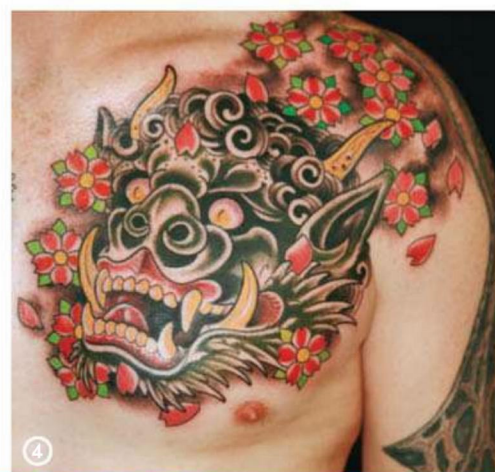
7 Shigehara
YK Tattoo Art Studio
Saitama, Japan

8 Zi You
Zi You Tattoo
On the road, China

9 Roman
Artistic Element
Yucaipa, USA

10 Tiziano Ripanti
Tattoo Experience
Falconara M., Italy

11 Riccardo Bottino
Monfalcone Tattoo & Marks
Monfalcone, Italy



- ① Moni Marino
Art Line Tattoo
Vienna, Austria
- ② Matthew Hockaday
Dixie Tattoo
Royal Oak, USA
- ③ Ruggero Chiumento
Roger Tattoo
Bassano del Grappa, Italy
- ④ Zac Spurlock
Anonymous Tattoo
Savannah, USA
- ⑤ Nico
One Love Tattoo
Geneva, Switzerland
- ⑥ Sean Herman
Royal Street Tattoo
Mobile, USA



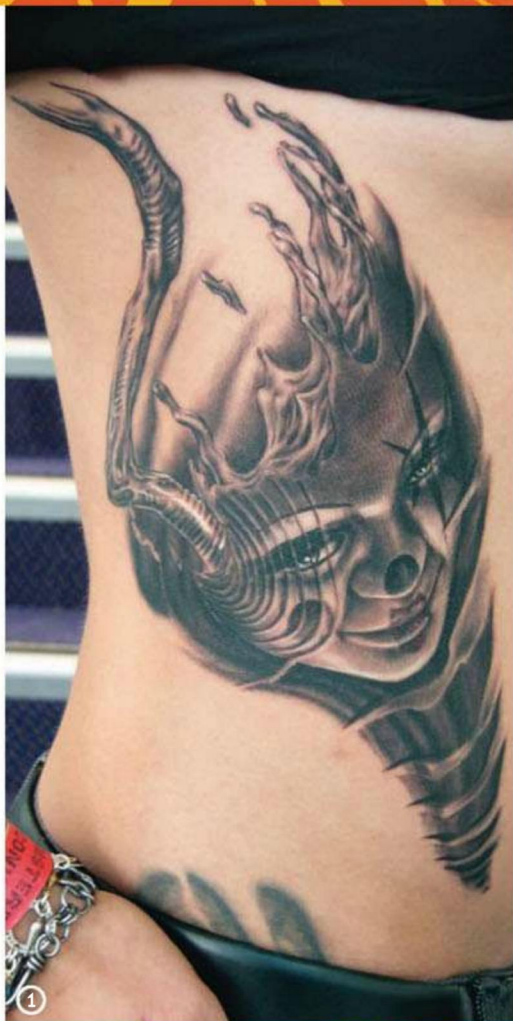


7 Kostas Tzikalagias
Dirty Roses
Thessalonki, Greece

8 Steph D
Octopus Tatouage
Pontoise, France

9 Samez
Cherry Tattoo
Monterotondo, Italy

10 Ron
5-7-0 Tattooing Co
Wikes-Barre, USA



- ① Victor Policheri
Vip Tattoo
Barcelona, Spain
- ② Mike Rubendall
Kings Avenue
Massapequa, USA
- ③ Placaso
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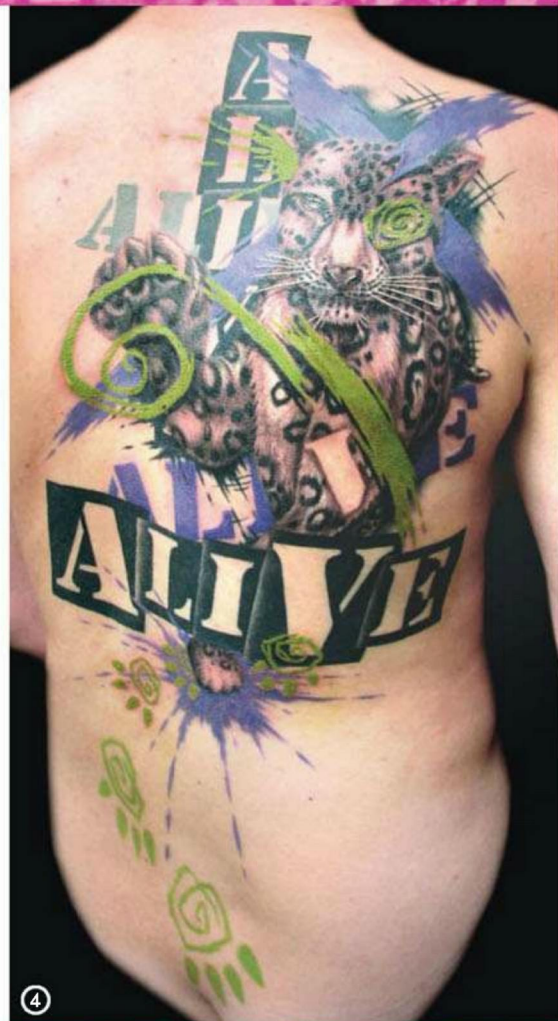


Stilian Smokov, Smokov Tattoo, Sofia, Bulgaria

WorldMagazine

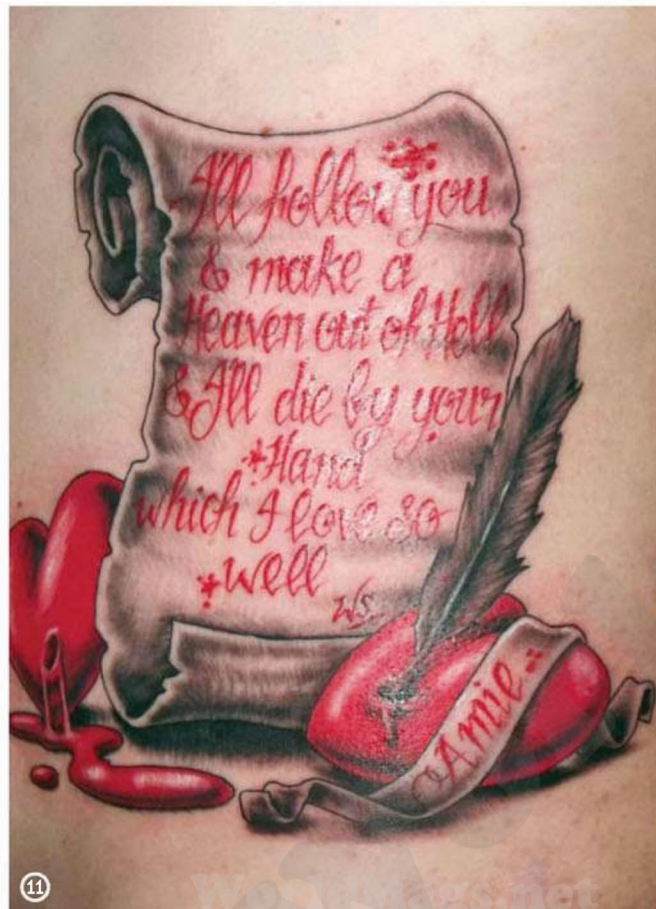


Xoil, Tattoo Culture, NYC, USA

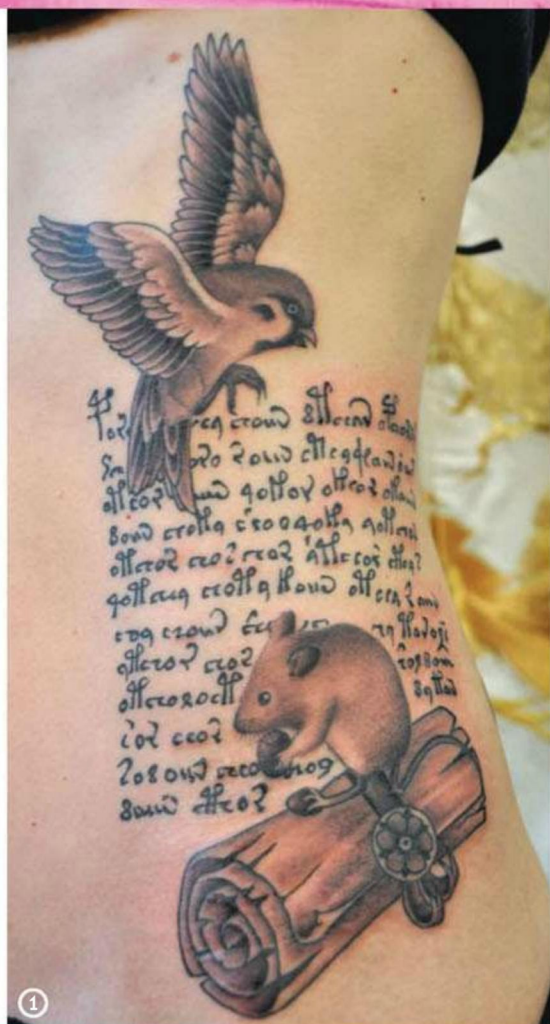


- 1 Noka
Dimitri Tatouage
Saint-Germain-en-Laye,
France
- 2 Sean Drumm
Teh Razors Edge
Kildare, Ireland
- 3 Victor Morales
Victor Morales Tattooing
Barcelona, Spain
- 4 Miss Nico
Miss Nico Tattoo
Berlin, Germany
- 5 Laura Satana
Exxxotic Tattoos
Paris, France
- 6 Moni Marino
Art Line Tattoo
Vienna, Austria

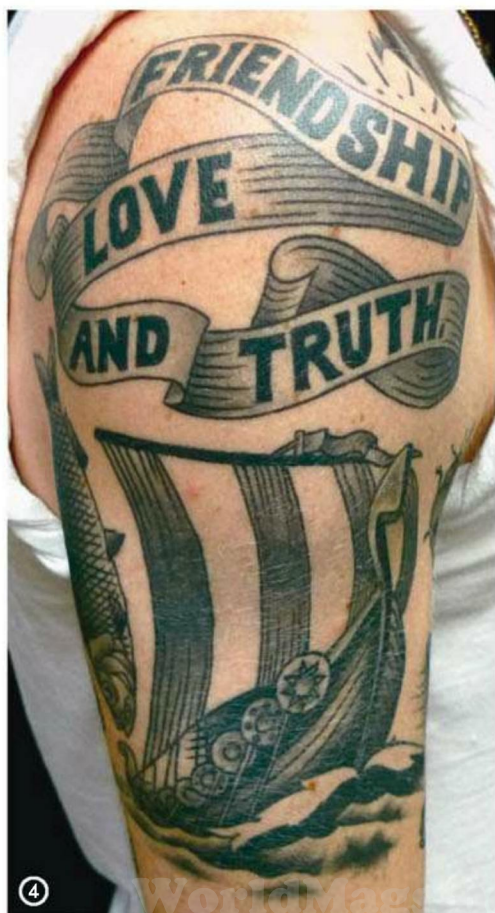




- 7 Marco Galdo
Trafficienti d'Arte
Milan, Italy
- 8 Antony Medellin
Nightmare Studio
Reno, USA
- 9 Nicola Chiumento
Roger Tattoo
Bassano del Grappa, Italy
- 10 Nob
Tokyo Hardcore
Tokyo, Japan
- 11 Neil Braithwaite
Coolum Tattoo
Coolum Beach, Australia



- ❶ Nathalie Verdon
Iguana Tatau
Bern, Switzerland
- ❷ Steve Soto
Good Fellas Tattoo
Orange, USA
- ❸ Kevin McNutt
Empire State Studio
Oceanside, USA
- ❹ Virginia Elwood
NY Adorned
NYC, USA
- ❺ Nick Baldwin
Infinite Ink
Coventry, UK





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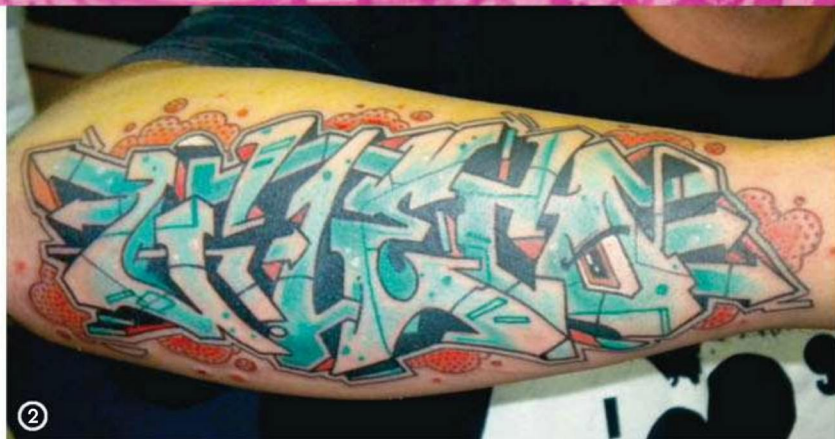
6 Slicknick
25 To Life
Rotterdam, Holland

7 Maria Grazia Tolino
Venom Body Art
Sala Consilina, Italy

8 Philipp
Today is a Good Day
Tattoo
Uster, Switzerland

9 Tim McAlary
Gold Rush Tattoo
Costa Mesa, USA

10 Ruggero Chiumento
Roger Tattoo
Bassano del Grappa,
Italy



- ❶ Mirek Vel Stotker
Stotker Tattoo
London, UK
- ❷ Posk
Buena Tinta Tattoo
Mostoles, Spain
- ❸ Ross Nagle
Allstar Ink Tattoos
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Rho, Italy

③ El Monga
Aloha Tattoo
Barcelona, Spain

④ Han
King of Kings
Swalmen, Holland





5



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5 Ivana
Kaleidoscope Tattoo
Sydney, Australia

6 Claire
Octopus Tatouage
Pontoise, France

7 Hexa
Precious Tattoo
Tampere, Finland

8 Adam Hathorn
Guru Tattoo
San Diego, USA



①



②



③

① Jason Butcher
Immortal Ink,
Chelmsford, UK

② Kaloian Smokov
Smokov Tattoo
Sofia, Bulgaria

③ Fabian Langes
Clockwork Tattoo
Naturno, Italy

④ Henry Rodriguez
Oddball Tattoo
Portland, USA

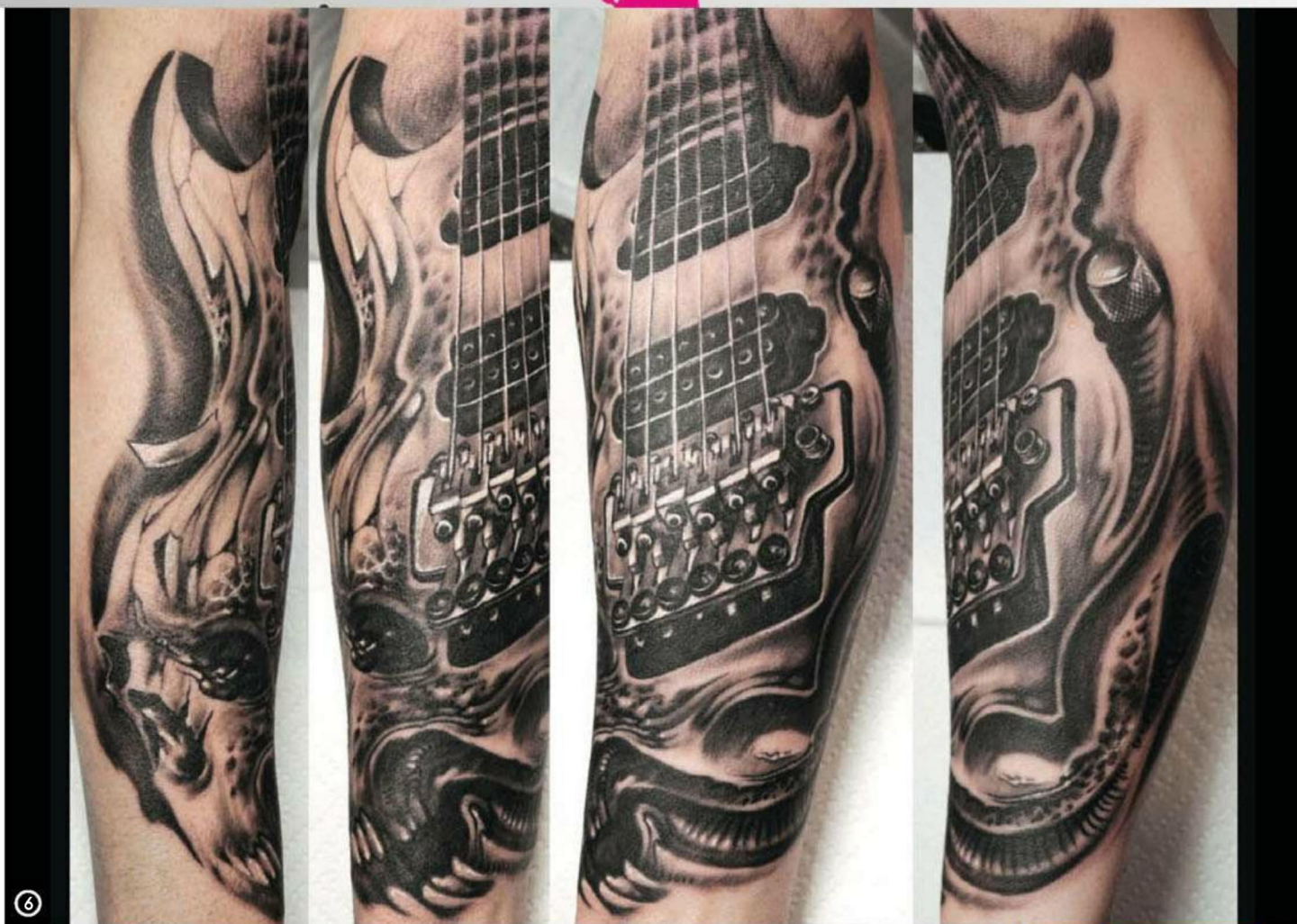
⑤ Fabian Nitz
Outback Tattoo
Berlin, Germany



④



⑤



- ⑥ Lenu
Alien Tattoo
Walbrzych, Poland
- ⑦ Dawnii Fantana
Painted Lady Tattoo
Parlour Birmingham, UK
- ⑧ Alex De Pase
Alex De Pase Tattoo
Grado, Italy



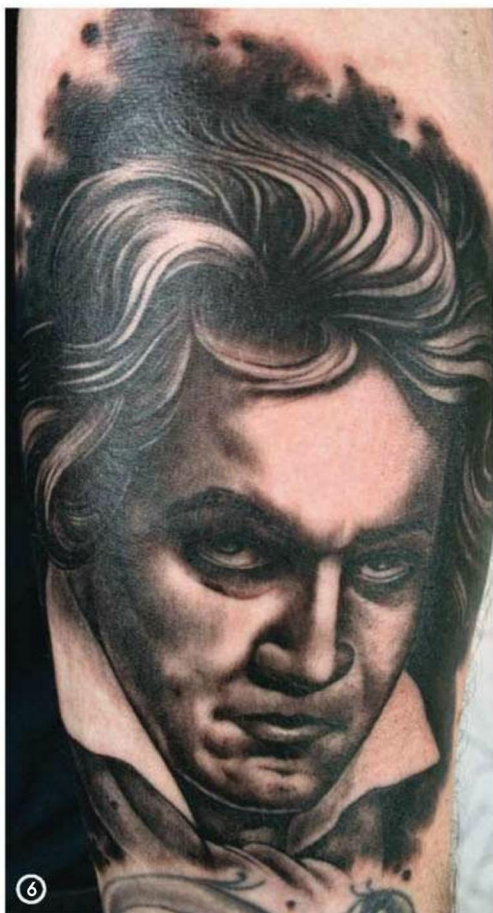
❶ Kirt Silver
Silver City Tattoo,
Elmsdale, Canada

❷ Csaba Mullner
Nadelwerk Tattoo
Wels, Austria

❸ Fide
Für Immer Tattoo
Berlin, Germany

❹ Bob Tyrrell
Night Gallery
Detroit, USA





⑤ Dimitri Hk
Dimitri Tatouage
S.Germain-en-Laye, France

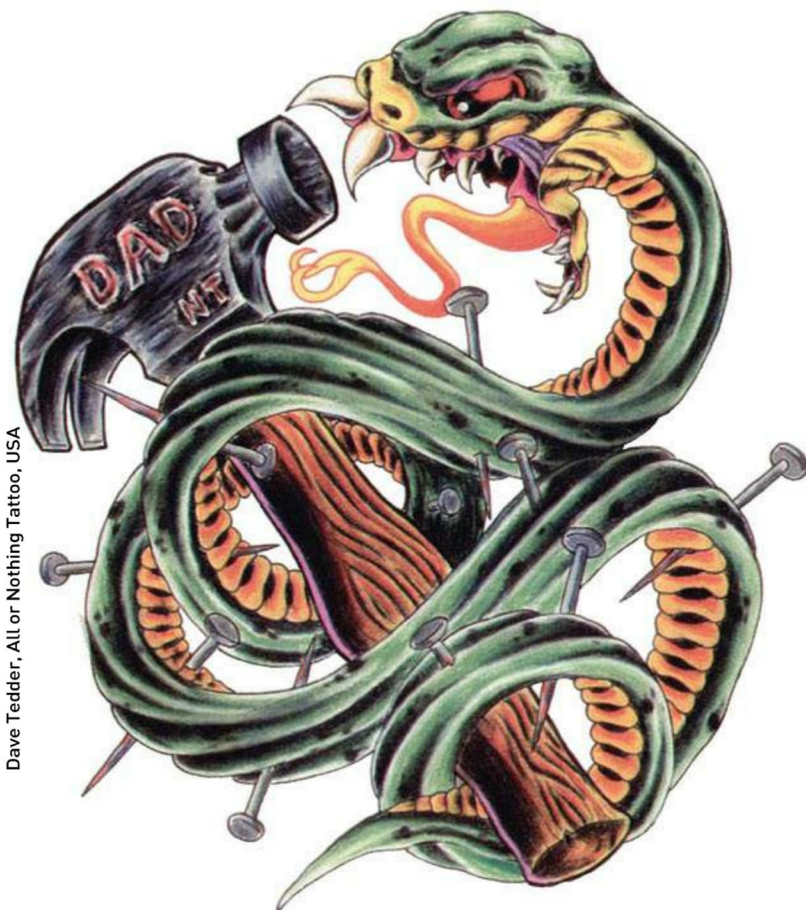
⑥ Joao Bosco
Self Sacrifice Tattoo
London, UK

⑦ Liz Cook
Custom Tattoos
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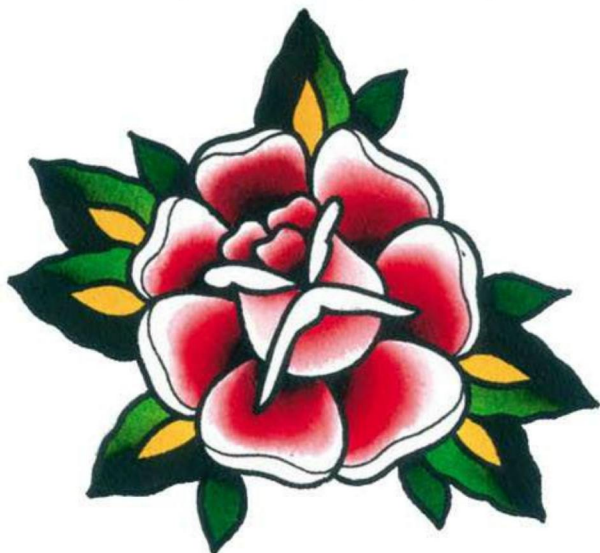
Dave Tedder, All or Nothing Tattoo, USA



Diego Brandi, Subskin Tattoo, Rome, Italy



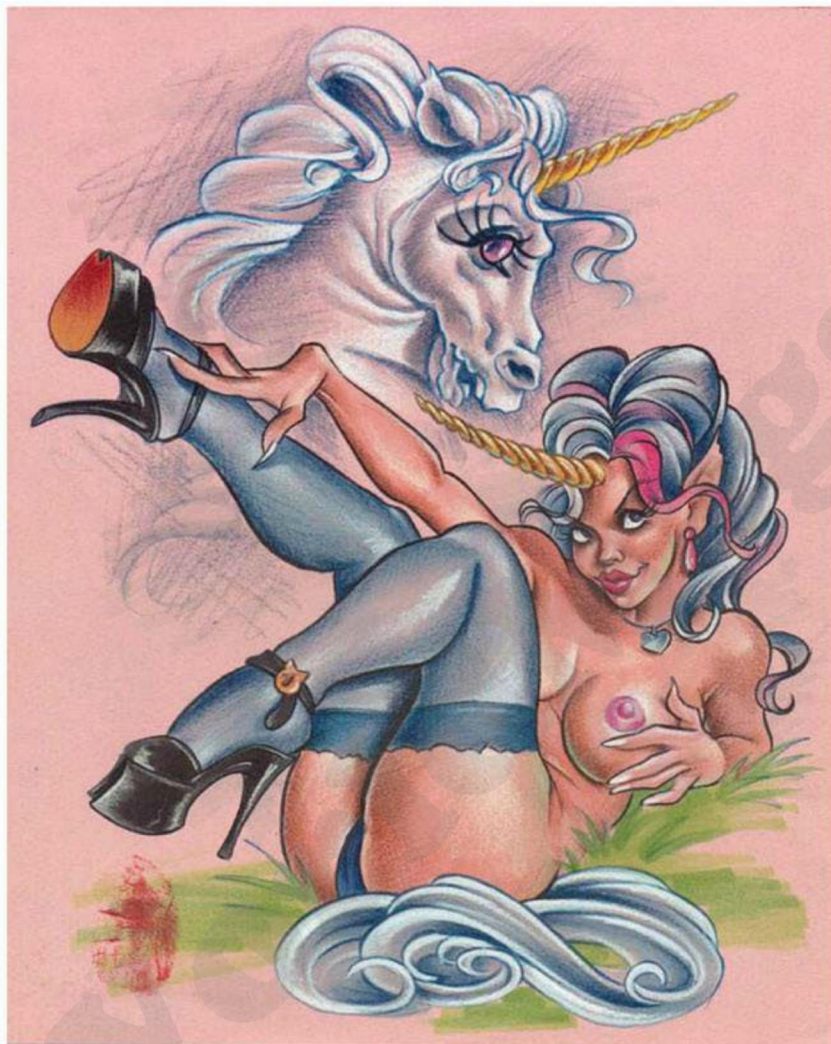
Gordon Combs, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA



Dane Mancini, Inkamatic, Trieste, Italy

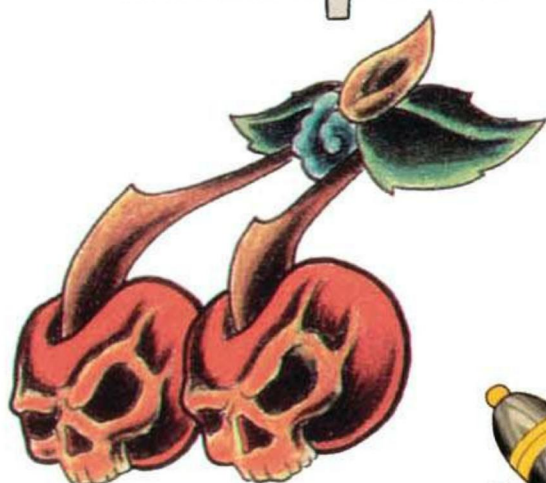
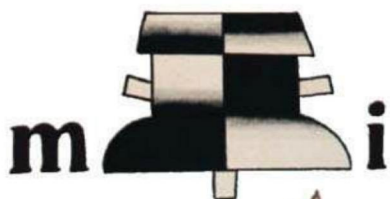
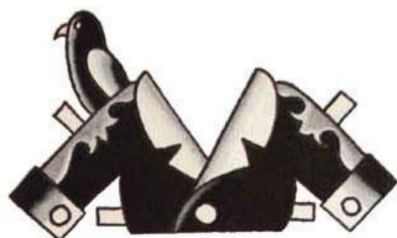


Diego Brandi, Subskin Tattoo, Rome, Italy



Dane Mancini, Inkamatic, Trieste, Italy

Joe Capobianco, Hope Gallery Tattoo, New Haven, USA



Dave Tedder, All or Nothing Tattoo, USA



Gordon Combs, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA



Gordon Combs, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA

Steph D, Octopus Tatouage, Pontoise, France



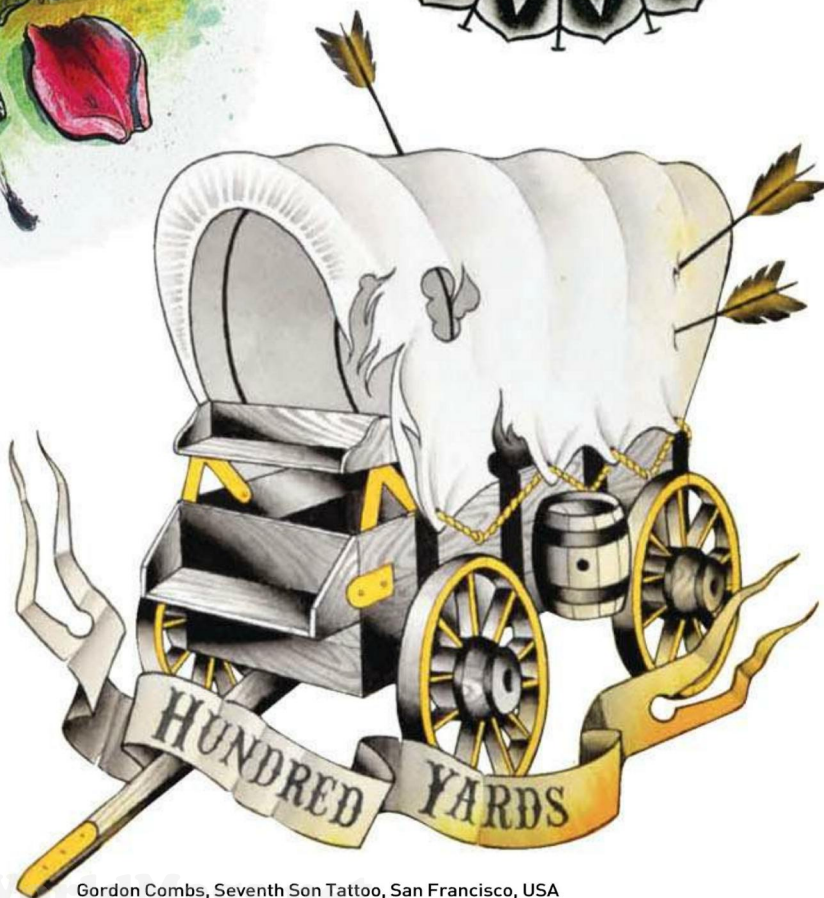
Dane Mancini, Inkamatic, Trieste, Italy



John Raftery, Dare Devil Tattoo, NYC, USA



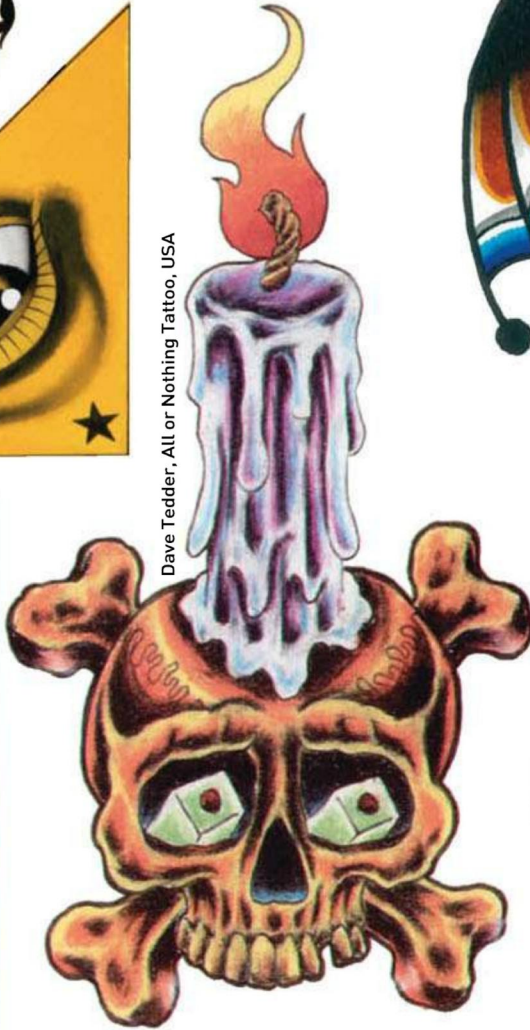
Andrea Furci, The Family Business, London, UK



Gordon Combs, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA



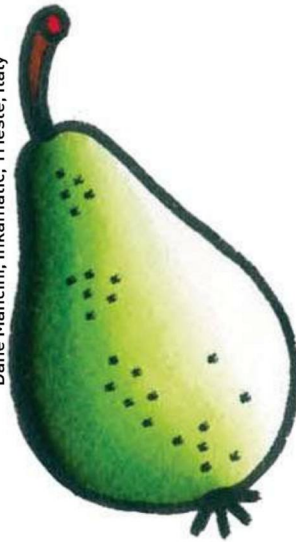
Dave Tedder, All or Nothing Tattoo, USA



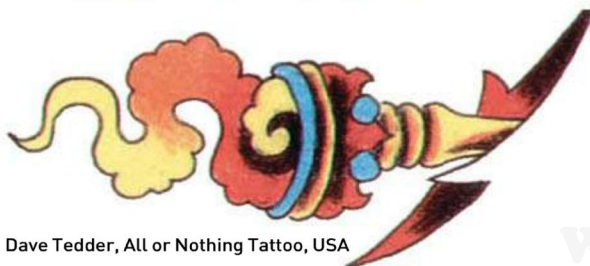
Jason June, Three Kings Tattoo, NYC, USA



Dane Mancini, Inkamatic, Trieste, Italy



Jota Esteban, Jota Esteban Mao & Cathy Tattoo, Barcelona, Spain



Dave Tedder, All or Nothing Tattoo, USA



Gordon Combs, Seventh Son Tattoo, San Francisco, USA

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Philippe '11

Alex Gotzo, Dirty Roses, Thessaloniki, Greece

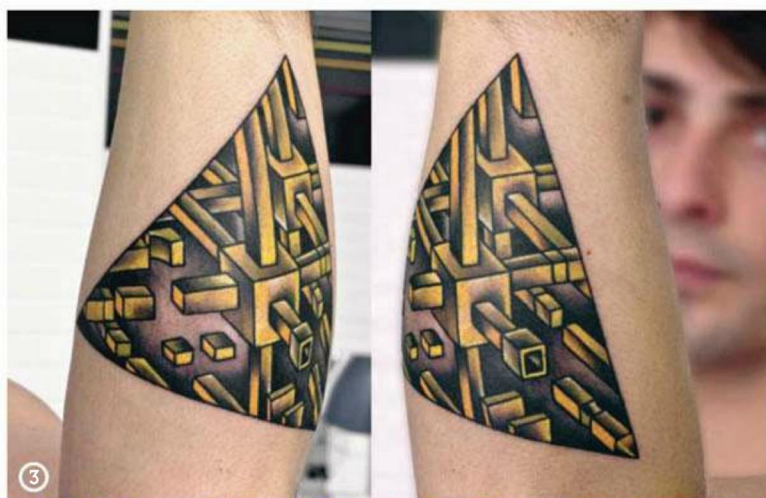


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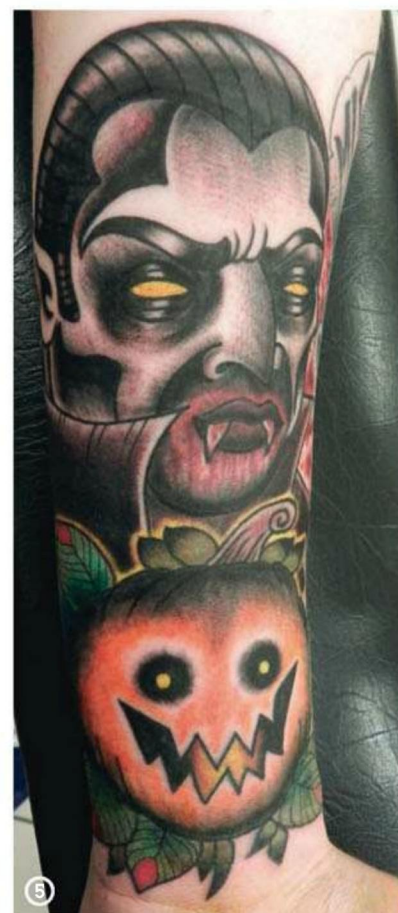
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En, Genko Tattoo, Nagoya, Japan

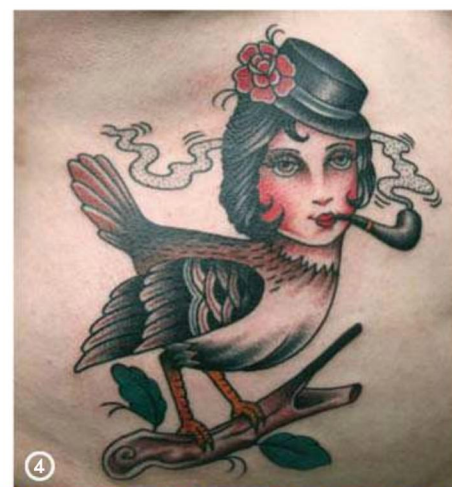
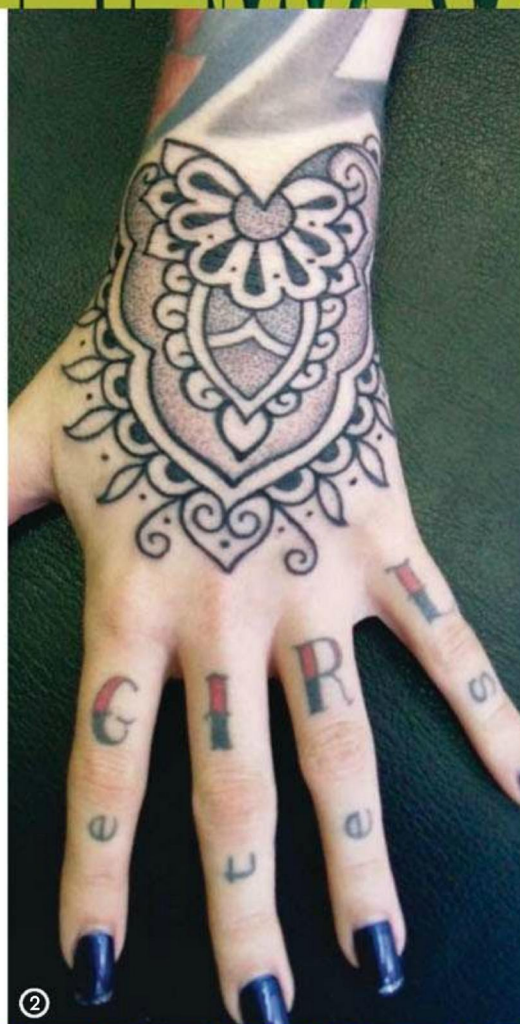


- ❶ Aaron Della Vedova
Guru Tattoo
San Diego, USA
- ❷ Buddy Olli
Blue Harvest Tattoo
Bielefeld, Germany
- ❸ Carlo Formisano
Indelebile Tattoo
Torre del Greco, Italy
- ❹ Bugs
Bugs Art Work
Los Angeles, USA
- ❺ Christian Jacobsen
Frontline Tattoo
Surfer Paradise, Australia

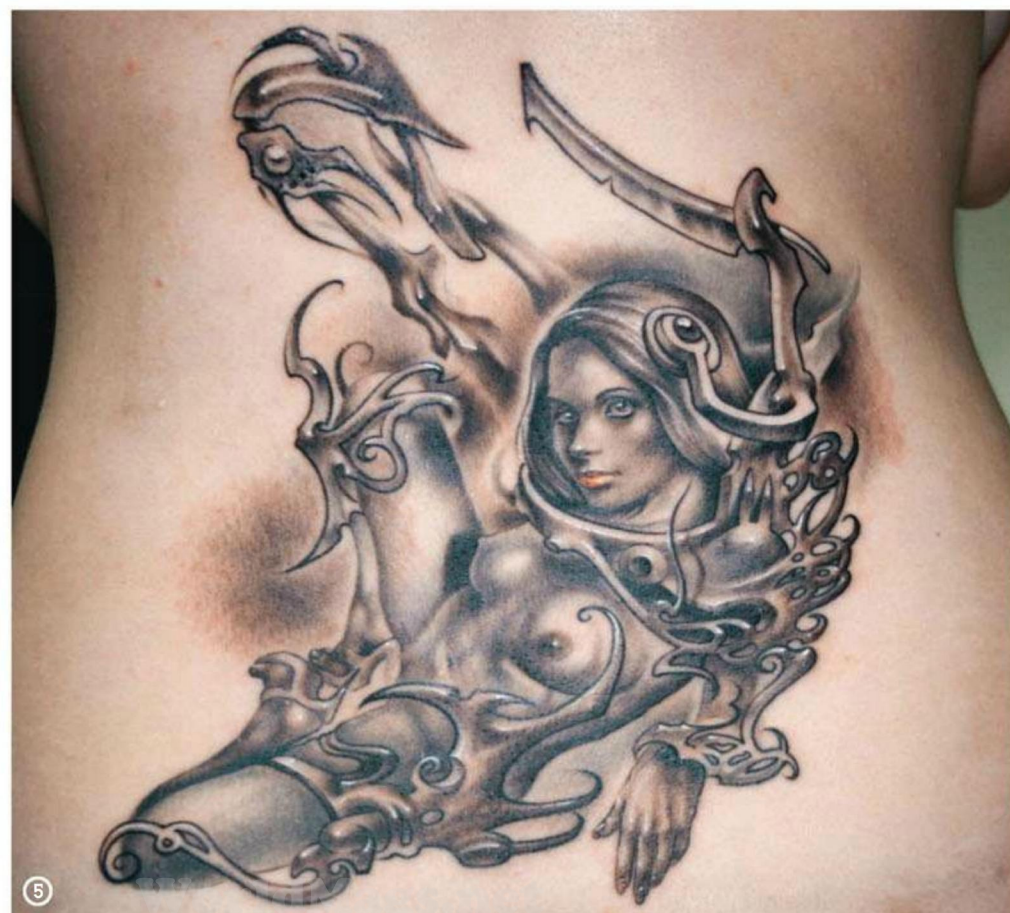


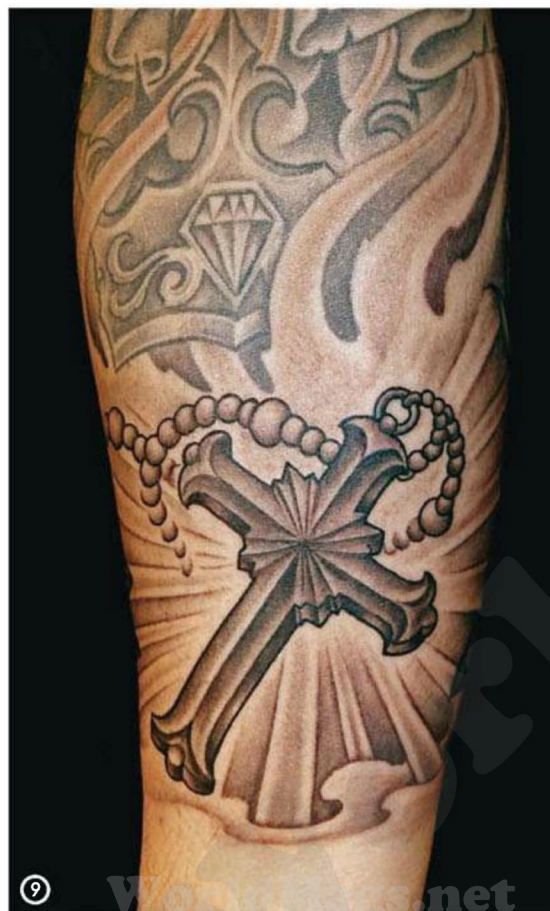


- 6 Alex Gotza
Dirty Roses
Thessalonki, Greece
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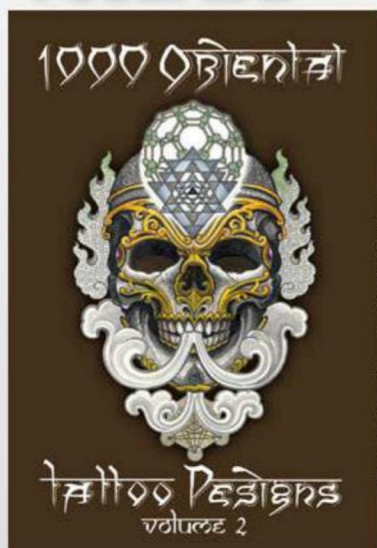
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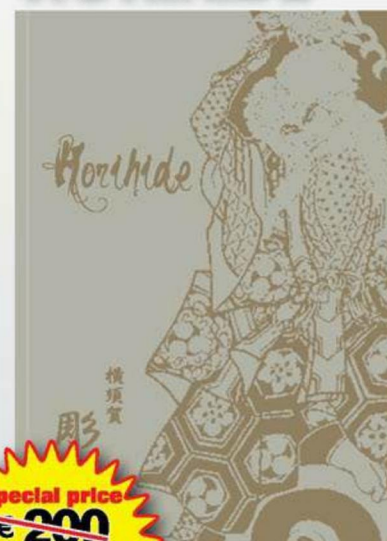
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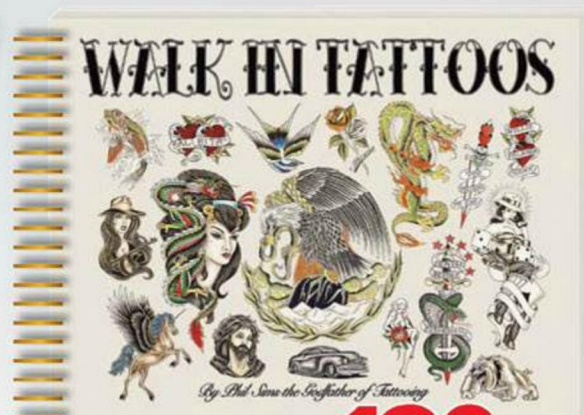
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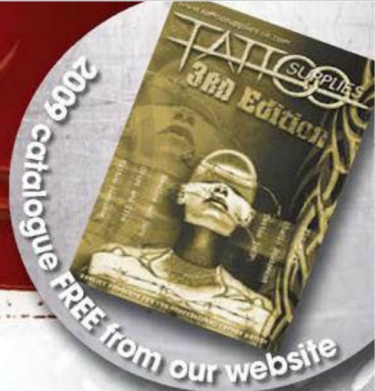
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